

THE CZECHOSLOVAK — SOVIET TRADE AGREEMENT IN THE YEARS 1951—1955

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In the course of the year 1950 the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) imposed upon all the member states the conclusion of long-term bilateral economic agreements among themselves. The most important one for all of them was the agreement with the Soviet Union, which was their main supplier of raw materials and equipment and the main customer for their products. The Czechoslovak-Soviet negotiations were prolonged and very complicated, owing to the demands pressed by the Soviet side. At stake were demands whose realisation meant profound changes in the structure of the Czechoslovak economy and had longterm disadvantageous consequences. This reconstruction of the proceedings on the basis of archival documents depicts the positions, deliberations and course of action of both partners.