

## THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY AND THE SOCIALIST PARTIES OF EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE, 1944—1948

*Peter Heumos*

Between 1944 and 1948 the Labour party engaged in a most active policy vis-à-vis the Socialist parties of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. When one considers the initially close cooperation of the East-Central European Socialists with the Communist parties, this fact does not support the view that Labour conducted a strictly anti-Communist strategy. In contrast of the Foreign Office, whose perception was that East-Central Europe had been lost to the Soviet Union in 1946, Labour counted on a long-term consolidation of the Socialist parties based on the positions of „democratic socialism“; in Labour's view, this goal seemed to have been achieved with the Brünn congress of the Czechoslovak Social Democrats in November 1947 and with the 27th congress of the Polish Socialist party in Dezember 1947.