THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC IN THE FILES OF THE GERMAN TRUCE COMMISSION, 1919

Frank Hadler

Since German-Czech relations have received extensive and copiously documented descriptions, especially in German archives seemingly there are hardly any materials left which have hitherto escaped treatment. The "Enemy Situation East" reports forming part of the files of the German Truce Commission of 1919, however, contribute in a specific way to a complete picture of what was known about the Czechoslovak First Republic in Berlin at the time of the Paris peace conference. The reports prepared for the "Grand General Staff" reflect the principal areas of interest of German military authorities as far as the Bohemian lands were concerned, namely: 1) strength and equipment of the Czechoslovak armed forces, possible troop concentrations at the German border and the probability of military action against German territory; 2) the interest in the Lusatian Sorbs as shown by Czechoslovakia; 3) the treatment by the Czechoslovak state of the Sudeten Germans, and, 4) the relationship between Czechs ans Slovaks.