

stitution, the papers represent one of the strongest indictments of the continuing official violations of the legally "guaranteed" rights of individuals and nationalities ever to emerge from the USSR. It is also a deeply moving account of human courage and self-sacrifice, of idealism and affection for the oppressed and underprivileged in the Soviet society—especially striking as it comes largely from the young men and women raised in the Soviet milieu, who spoke openly against injustice in full realization of the frightful consequences of their actions. Chornovil did not escape the consequences of his action, either. After a period of administrative harassment, he was arrested by the end of the summer of 1967 and sentenced in the fall of that year to three years at hard labor for "slandering the Soviet system" (his sentence was subsequently reduced by half).

Like Chornovil's volume, *Dear Comrade* is a significant document of political dissent in the USSR, similarly directed against the portents of neo-Stalinism. Much more limited in its scope, *Dear Comrade* contains two important protest letters written by Pavel Litvinov, the grandson of the late people's commissar of foreign affairs (the second letter is cosigned by Larisa Bogoraz-Daniel), and sixty-three letters and telegrams sent to Litvinov between December 1967 and May 1968 in response to his two letters after they had been broadcast in Russian by foreign radio stations. A concise introduction and careful annotations supplied by Karel van het Reve enhance the value of this volume.

One of the boldest spokesmen for intellectual and political freedom in the USSR, Pavel Litvinov in October 1967 addressed a letter to four Soviet dailies and three Communist newspapers in the West protesting against harassment by the KGB, which tried to "dissuade" him from publishing abroad a record of a political trial of Vladimir Bukovsky and two other dissenters in the late summer of 1967. The latter were arrested for participating in a public demonstration against the arrest of Alexander Ginzburg and other compilers of a "White Book on the Case of Siniavsky and Daniel," which was subsequently published in the West. In January 1968 Litvinov and Daniel's wife addressed to the "world public opinion" a protest against the closed trial of Ginzburg, Galanskov, Dobrovolsky, and Lashkova. The rest of *Dear Comrade*, indeed the most fascinating part of the book, consists of the "feedback" from Soviet citizens reacting to these two protest letters. Reproduced in both Russian and English, these are predominantly messages of sympathy and support; but there are also some hostile reactions (a few, it would seem, officially inspired), including several letters of untranslatable vulgarity and violently anti-Semitic bias. They provide a small but important sample of the climate of "unofficial" Soviet political opinion, the revival of which has been one of the major developments of the Khrushchev era.

Like Chornovil, Litvinov acted in full realization of the penalties to be paid for intellectual honesty and courage. Arrested in August 1968 for taking part in a peaceful demonstration against the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, he was sentenced in October of that year to a five-year banishment.

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SLOVAKS IN CANADA. By *Joseph M. Kirschbaum*. Toronto: Canadian Ethnic Press Association of Ontario, 1967. xvi, 468 pp.

Professor Kirschbaum divides his "saga of a small group of people in a new land who preserved their identity and achieved success" into four parts. Part 1 describes the historical, ethnic, cultural, political, religious, and economic back-

ground of the Slovak immigrants and concludes with a brief sketch of the Slovak national character. Part 2 is concerned with the actual Slovak migration to Canada, in which it discerns three successive waves: (1) the early settlers who came to Canada prior to the First World War, beginning with the first group of Slovaks who moved to Canada from the United States in 1885—they were poorly educated and were almost exclusively farmers, miners, and railway workers; (2) the interwar immigrants (some 34,000), who were also mainly farmers and workers but were already somewhat better educated and politically more conscious; and (3) the Slovaks who came to Canada after the Second World War (some 1,500) as political refugees, most of them well educated and thus qualified from the beginning for white-collar positions. Part 3 is a detailed descriptive survey of the numerous Slovak organizations in Canada—social, fraternal, gymnastic, and religious—and of the various Slovak-language periodicals, almanachs, and other publications. Finally, part 4 purports to show how and to what extent the Slovak immigrants have been integrated into Canadian life and what their contributions have been to Canada's culture, literature, science, arts, and economy. The volume contains also a résumé in French, a documents section, a bibliography of books and articles both on Slovakia and on the Slovaks in Canada, indexes of names and subjects, as well as numerous photographs.

Based on a wealth of sources, including the archives of various Canadian Slovak organizations, the Slovak press in Canada, and interviews with Slovak settlers in many parts of Canada, Kirschbaum's study is a useful contribution to the literature on the Central European immigration to the Western Hemisphere. It is only a pity that the volume is marred by occasional remarks revealing the author's anti-Czech bias and detracting thus from the objectivity promised in the book's preface.

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RUSSIAN LAND, SOVIET PEOPLE: A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH TO THE U.S.S.R. By *James S. Gregory*. New York: Pegasus, 1968. 947 pp. \$15.00.

Russian Land, Soviet People, a text of considerable proportions, is in basic format an expansion of an earlier book, *The U.S.S.R.: A Geographical Survey* (1944), by Professor Gregory and D. W. Shave. Like the earlier work, the text is divided into two major parts: a general survey (361 pp.) covering land forms, climate, vegetation, soils, agriculture, and industry, and a regional survey (approximately 500 pp.) following a broad division into some thirteen regions.

The text contains such a vast amount of factual material, essentially of a reference sort, that it is difficult for the reviewer to know what might interest the specialist on the Soviet Union. The logical place to begin most likely is the preface. Here Gregory sets out his objectives, which are "to show how the major factors of environment have influenced and guided the growth of Russia and the U.S.S.R. from prehistoric to Soviet times" and "to help the reader to see the U.S.S.R. as it appears to the intelligent Soviet citizen today, rather than to approach the study of the country and people from a point of view biased by prejudice or a favourable or unfavourable disposition towards the Soviet political system" (p. 5).

The first objective entails an approach more typical of geographical writing in the 1930s than of the present. Still one need not rule out a consideration of the re-