History of Slovakia

worksheets







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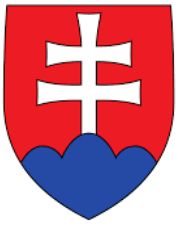


Contents

INTRODUCTION..... 7
HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA: Worksheet 1 8
HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA: Worksheet 2 8
HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA: Worksheet 3 8
HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA: Worksheet 4 8
HISTORY OF SLOVAKIA: Worksheet 5 8

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INTRODUCTION

Project BraDraShip is based on the institutional cooperation between Gymnázium Grosslingová 18, Bratislava, Slovakia and St. Hallvard videregående skole, Drammen, Norway. BraDraShip is an acronym for BRAtislava – DRAmmen – Ship and it describes cities on the same board which are eager to fight for better education through mutual sharing of tricks and practices in teaching and learning in the spirit of BROTHERSHIP (which sounds similar to BRADRASHIP).

The project BraDraShip was realized from March 2015 to March 2016 and its main goal was to improve not only teaching process but also after-school activities. In order to achieve the main goal we have set up several partial goals:

- create teaching aids for both scientific and social subjects, share proved and create new methods and activities to emphasize using knowledge in real life situations,
- cooperate on assignments and tasks related to different parts of life which are attractive for our students and raise their awareness about other cultures, history and traditions of both countries.

Teachers have written this material, as one of the project outputs. We recommend it to be used not only in English language classrooms in order to improve vocabulary and reading comprehension skills but also in other classes to extend students knowledge about culture of partner country.

Pre-reading task

1. Find the information about the Slovak National Awakening:

   Period, reason, result, impact on our country

2. What movies are related to the Slovak National Awakening?

While-reading task

1. Read the text and underline the most important facts.
2. Find basic information about the people in the following pictures:







Post-reading task

1. According to the definitions find the words in the text.
   a. the state of understanding something
   b. the act of starting to understand something or feelsomething:
   c. the state of being a serf or the system by which the serfsworked on the land
   d. the act of trying to achieve a plan, activity, or situation, usually over a long period of time:
2. Find more information about Slovak Romanticism.
3. If you had a chance to establish an international language how would you simplify English? What would you add and throw out?

The Slovak National Awakening

After the decline of the Great Moravia the Slovak lands became a part of Hungary and later a part of Austria – Hungary for 1000 years. Austria – Hungary as a multiethnic land declined after the First World War in 1918. However, at the end of the 18th century in the era of the Enlightenment, national cogitations started to spread around in each individual nation.

Slovakia was not an exception. Even here conditions for a national awakening started to form. The word nation, a large group of people united by common language, culture, or habits, was being more and more known to the people. Groups of national awakeners started to develop and they represented the Slovak intelligentsia. This consisted of Catholic priests, Protestant pastors, teachers, poets, and journalist who emphasised the Slovak national awareness.

The Slovak National Awakening took place between 1780 and 1850 and was divided into 3 stages. In that period Joseph II ruled over Hungary. He was a son of Maria Theresa who reformed many areas of education, agricultural, and army under the influence of the Enlightenment. After Joseph II claimed the throne he continued in reformation by abolishing serfdom and issuing the Patent of Toleration which allowed constricted religious equalization. He was attempting to centralize the monarchy and to establish a unanimous official language but he also encouraged the usage of domestic languages.

The first stage of the Slovak National Awakening took place between 1780 and 1820. This stage in which Catholic priests had greater influence was focused on publication of classical literature in order to have a basis of the national culture. The pursuit of national awakening had to be done through establishment of language that even commons will understand. That is why it was vital to concentrate on the codification of Slovak literary language.

Jozef Ignác Bajza made the first initiative to create such a language. He was an enlightened Catholic priest who was using Bajza language (Bajzovčina) in his works. Bajzovčina had features of German language and that is why this language did not find recognition by commons because they did not understand it. J. I. Bajza did not manage to establish the unanimous system of language.

In 1878 another Catholic priest Anton Bernolák became the first codifier of Slovak literary language. He was attending General Seminars for priests in Bratislava which Joseph II established. His language was called Bernolákovčina. It had phonetic basis which practically meant to write as you hear and had features of dialect used in western parts of Slovakia from the outskirts of Trnava. A. Bernolák published the Gramatica Slavica, the Etymology of Slovak Words. He wrote about the origin and formation of Slovak words and the Dictionary of Slovak – Czech – Latin – German – Hungarian Words. Scholars and writers who wrote and supported this language were called Bernolákovci and their guild was called the Slovenské Učené Tovarištvo. This guild was founded in Trnava in 1792. The most active member of the guild was Juraj Fándly who wrote a piece of work Piľní domajší a poľný hospodár (with agricultural topic).

However, not everyone was satisfied with Bernolákovčina. The first Slovak newspapers Prešpurské Newspapers did not agree with it and even defamed it. The Protestant generation led by Juraj Palkovič also disagreed with this language.

Between 1820 and 1835 the second stage of the Slovak National Awakening came around and that was the stage of Slavic Mutuality. Protestant pastors were on the top ranks. The second stage was focused more on issues of strong Hungarization. Those who did not agree with the Hungarization promoted an idea of Slavic Mutuality. That idea was promoted after the international rise of Russia and after the Napoleonic wars. Representatives of that stage were Ján Kollár and Pavol Jozef Šafárik. Their language was very similar to Czech language which also belonged to Slavic languages. J. Kollár was referred to as Slovak Socrates and he was a representative of Slovak Classicism. His most famous poem Slávy Dcéra (the Sláva´s Daughter) represented the Slavic nations as peace loving ones. That poem condemned denationalism and saw salvations of Slavs in Russian nation.

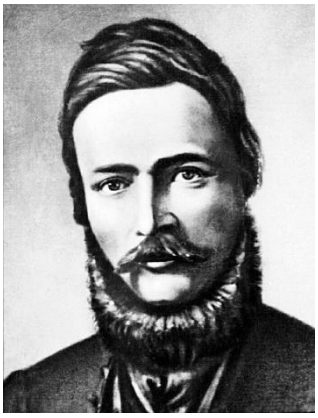
Slovakia was a small country and the fragmentation of opinions about literary language harmed its establishments. Mutual cooperation was finally achieved in the third stage of the Awakening between 1835 and 1848. This cooperation was fuelled by intensive Hungarization in that time.

Representative of that stage was Ľudovít Štúr who together with Michal Hodža and Jozef Hurban codified Slovak literary language in 1843 in Hurban ´s rectory in Hlboké. Ľ. Štúr acted in Evangelic Lyceum in Bratislava where he tutored at the Department of Czechoslovak Speech and Literature. He was a Ugrian congressman and the most important representative of Slovak Romanticism. He published the Slovak National Newspapers and a journal Slovenské Pohľady. Both were later banned. The grammatical rules were written in works of the Doctrine of Slovak Speech and Literature and the Slovak Dialects (in Slovak: Nárečja slovenskuo alebo potreba písaňja v tomto nárečí). Those works were published in 1846. The guild of Štúr´s followers was called Tatrín and was founded in Liptovský Mikuláš. In 1847 in Čachtice an agreement between Štúr and Bernolák was finally made.

Later the language underwent many reforms including the Reform of Hodža and Hatala in 1851 and set basics of today's Slovak language.


Anton Bernolák


Ján Kollár


Ľudovít Štúr

Pre-reading task

1. What do these pictures have in common?
2. What do you know about Milan Rastislav Štefánik?





While-reading task

1. Read the text and underline the most important facts.
2. Find basic information about the Resistance Movement.
3. What happened on 31st of May 1918?

Post-reading task

1. Find more information about the topic on the Internet.
2. According to the definitions find the words in the text.
   a. to govern people in an unfair and cruel way
   b. the right of an organization, country, or region to be independent and govern itself
   c. someone who studies astronomy
   d. having the highest rank, level, or importance
   e. the situation in which people have the same opinion, or in which they approve of or accept something
   f. to accept military defeat

THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

The Slovak nation was under domination of Hungarians in the Kingdom of Hungary since 9th century. During 1,000 years Hungarians were oppressing our nation and they also tried to Hungarise Slovaks and violently merge them with Hungarians. But Slovaks had a powerful will and they didn't let them to destroy the Slovak spirit.

As a result of poverty, lack of jobs and oppression of a nation a half million of Slovaks (from 2,480,000 inhabitants) moved to America from the Hungarian Kingdom before World War I. They were lured in by democracy and freedom in America. Therefore, they established Slovak League of America (an association of smaller Slovak organizations) which tried to help compatriots in Europe to become independent. The Slovak nation was too weak to create an independent state because the current war situation did not allow that. The Czech nation seemed to be a good ally because Czechs were also oppressed but by Germans in Austria-Hungary. They were culturally and linguistically almost the same as Slovaks. That alliance was confirmed with Cleveland Agreement on 22th of October 1915. The agreement was signed by representatives of Slovak and Czech associations in America.

They asked for: "The creation of federal and democratic union of Slovaks and Czechs with total national autonomy."

Milan Rastislav Štefánik

Born on 21th of July 1880 in Košariská (Austria-Hungary – today's Slovakia), Milan Rastislav Štefánik was a national hero who during the WWI helped to create the state with Czechs. He studied astronomy in Prague. There was no place of work worth his skills in Austria-Hungary so he had to leave for France. He was very clever and hard working and soon he became an internationally famous astronomer with connections in high political and scientific circles. He taught at Oxford University, established observatories in many countries and received many awards for his contribution to astronomy.





Resistance movement

After the beginning of WWI, a general Štefánik together with his contacts in Paris, Tomas G. Masaryk, and Eduard Beneš established Czechoslovak National Council (supreme authority of resistance) on 28th of July 1916. Czech and Slovak captives captured in Russia and Italy and volunteers from USA made an army called the Legions, which fought with Allied Powers against Austria-Hungary. Czechs and Slovaks were citizens of Austria-Hungary and therefore had to fight

with Central Powers. But in Austria-Hungary they suffered from great poverty and tyranny and were unwilling to fight, therefore they let themselves to be voluntarily arrested or they deserted to Allied Powers state and fought in Legions.

The president of United States, Woodrow Wilson recited to United States Congress statement called "Fourteen Points" on 8th of January, 1918. It contained procedures how to end the war. The 10th point was the most important for us: "The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development."

Few months later on 31st of May, T.G. Masaryk signed Pittsburgh Agreement with representatives of Slovak and Czech associations in America. According to that agreement Slovakia was not supposed to be a fully independent nation, just a part of a bigger and centrally controlled Czech state.

The last days of war in Austria-Hungary were full of chaos and disintegration. US government declared independence of Czecho-Slovakia nation in Washington Declaration on 18th of October 1918. It declared the formation of a new state on democratic principles of progress and humanity.

On 28th of October, 1918 the Czecho-Slovakia Republic was declared in Prague. T. G. Masaryk became the first president.

On 3rd of November, 1918 Austria-Hungary capitulated and fell apart.

Sad end of a hero

In May 1918 M.R. Štefánik visited Italy to arrange the returning of Czechoslovak captives home. During the flight back home the plane suddenly fell down and Štefánik died. There have been many stories and questions about his death until today. He was buried on a hill called Bradlo near his hometown. Later a gigantic monument was built in this place – a tomb of general Milan R. Štefánik, thousands of Slovak pay him a visit every month.

Pre-reading task

1. Create the story using the pictures.











While-reading task

1. What was typical for Bernolak´s language?
2. What happened on July 17th 1943?

Post-reading task

1. Find more information about the topic on the Internet.
2. What do you know about the private life of Ľudovít Štúr?

National revivalists of Slovakia

Slovakia was a part of Austro-Hungarian Empire for a long time. That was the reason why Slovaks did not have an official Slovak language. Most people spoke Hungarian language, it was a formal language in Hungary. Scholars and the church used Latin and some people spoke German. In the times of Hussites, Czech language was brought to us by scholars who were studying in the Czech Republic. And of course, there were Slovak dialects used by common people. The reforms by Joseph II affected Slovaks who started to realize that they had the right for their own language and they started to create their own national programme.

Slovak scholars were divided into two groups. One was the Catholics, their centre was in Trnava, and the other group was the evangelists with a centre in Bratislava. The Catholics wanted to justify official Slovak language. There were Anton Bernolák, Ján Hollý and Juraj Fándly. The evangelists wanted to use Czech language. Ján Kollár and Pavel Jozef Šafárik belonged to the second group. Both of them were against Slovak language.

Anton Bernolák is known by every person in Slovakia. He spoke a lot of foreign languages and he was educated in linguistics, history, economics, philosophy, medicine, sciences, aesthetics, music, and politics. Thanks to that he wrote the basics of theological literature and he added the practical literature from those fields. In 1792 Slovak scholarly society and Community for cherishing Slovak language were founded.

But the reason why Bernolák is a historical personality is that he is considered as a first codifier of official Slovak language as a national language. He took the basics from the dialect of western Slovakia. He insisted on phonetic grammar - write what you hear. In his grammar, there was no *y* and some consonants were marked by diacritics. Also, the letter *j* was written as *g* and *v* as *w*. He justified that language with three works, one of them was published after his death. He spread that language thanks to two Slovak authors Juraj Fándly and Ján Hollý. However, that language did not become national language for all people, evangelists still used Czech language. Anyway, it was used for more than 50 years.

Another meaningful national revivalist was Ľudovít Štúr. He was born in 1815 and he was interested in the world of Slavic people. He studied at Evangelic seminary in Bratislava where the lectures were taught in Czech language. In 1829 the Czechoslovak Society began and Štúr became one of the members. The main function of the Society was to educate in the language, practise the grammar, write literature work and study the history of Slavic nations. In 1835 Štúr became one of the people who were responsible for the Society. One of the meaningful activities was the national celebration at Devin Castle, on April 24th 1834. Štúr made a speech, where he mentioned the history of Great Moravia and after reading poems, members chose the second Slavic names. Štúr chose Velislav.

Štúr spoke not only Polish and Russian but also Latin, Hungarian, German, French, Greek and Slavic languages. He also learnt Hebrew and English. He became a lecturer at the seminary; he lectured Czech and Polish grammar and history. In 1838 he went to the university in Halle. After coming back, the situation in Hungary was tough. Hungary did not want to let other nationalities to educate and speak other languages but Hungarian. Štúr decided to unite the Catholics and Evangelists of Slovakia through one official language.

His Slovak language was based on the dialect of the middle part of Slovakia because it was most spread and understandable. On July 17th 1943 Štúr, Hodža and Hurban met in Hlboké, where they agreed on how to spread Slovak language. Six days later they met Ján Hollý whom they considered as a meaningful representative of Bernolak's language and they wanted him to know first. Štúr had two works that justified the language. In that grammar there was a difference in pronunciation of some consonants and there was also the rhythmical law (two long syllables cannot follow each other). This language has been used by now with a reform that was made in 1852 by Krátka mluvnica slovenská.

Bernolák made a huge mistake - he did not choose the right dialect and it cost him his lifework. But in spite of that, he was the initiator and Štúr was the accomplisher. We thank both of them for the language that we use every single day.

Pre-reading task

1. What famous Slovak legends are related to the castles?
2. Retell the stories briefly.
3. What was the woman in the picture famous for?





While-reading task

1. Read the text and underline the most important facts.
2. Explain the difference between „hrad“ and „zámok“?

Post-reading task

1. Find more information about the topic on the Internet.
2. Retell the history about Čachtice Castle.
3. Could the potion of youth and beauty work? Why? Why not?
4. What kind of punishment would you use for Eržebet?
5. What is the difference between Eržebet and Dracula?

SLOVAKIA- THE COUNTRY OF CASTLES

Slovakia is well known as a “Country of castles”. How come it earned that nickname? Easily. There are more than three hundred of castles and ruins in Slovakia. We divide them into two groups. “Hrady” and “zámky”.

“Hrad” is a big fortress which role is to protect borders of the country against attacks of other nations and to prevent their entering into the country. They were also supposed to defend people against those kinds of attacks. During wars a lot of people were looking for a safe place to hide. In most of cases, “hrad” was the first choice because it was built to be impregnable.

Unfortunately, lots of these castles (hrad) were built from wood so they didn't manage to complete they role successfully. Most of them were burnt to the ground. Therefore in the 13th century, people started building castles from stones. Those types of castles were better and safer. New stone forts were built in the place of original wooden castles or not far away from them.

As for the other group of castles- “zámky”, they were originally supposed to be splendid and prestige homes of noblemen and their families. Their roles weren't to protect people against attacks and offer them a safe place to hide but to show up a wealth of their owners. These types of castles are more likely to be mansions.

Unfortunately, the overwhelming majority of Slovak castles sank into oblivion and faded away. In past there were proudly standing big magnificent castles but nowadays there are just some ruins of these once impregnable forts. A lot of castles are used as museums or hosting places for many different types of festivals and events. Some of them serve as archaeological survey sites, the other ones are just haunting remains remembering us of their glorious times.

Now I would like to describe more specifically one of the most famous Slovak castles- Čachtice. Čachtice Castle was built in the second half of the13th century. That castle belonged to the ones whose task was to protect people and offer them safety. It is situated in western Slovakia not far away from Czechoslovakia border. It is approximately 100km away from the capital city of Slovakia and it is approximately one hour ride. In those times, it was one of the first castles which guarded western borders of the Ugrian kingdom. Because of its role - safeguarding the borders, it never became a luxurious residence. The only splendid part of the castle was a chapel.

In the 15th century, the Čachtice Castle was under the reconstruction and the originally Romanesque castle was changed to a Gothic one. That innovation was ordered by its current owner Ctibor, the master of Beckov. He suggested adding a renaissance courtyard, a gothic chapel, farm buildings and a tunnel entrance.

This castle is also well known because of a legend. The legend of Dracula, the Blood countess - Elizabeth Bathory. Back to the 16th century, Čachtice castle belonged to the countess Elizabeth Bathory (picture no.3 attached below) and her husband František Nádašdy. Many stories have been told about countess "Eržebet" and her lust for eternal beauty and youth.

Ferenc was dedicated to his country as a warrior and therefore he was frequently absent at home. Elizabeth was known as a faithful wife just in presence of her husband but the minute he left his home, she spent her free time with her lovers. But it clearly wasn't enough. Elizabeth started entertaining herself with torturing young maids.

It is said that once as she was beating up one of the maids, some of her blood got on Eržebet's face. She got so furious; she even killed that poor girl. She looked at herself at the mirror and saw something unusual. For a second there she thought her skin looked younger. That unfortunate coincidence was considered as a beginning of something terrible.

Rumours say that Elizabeth murdered over 600 young girls and squeezed each of their bodies so she could fill a bath with their blood. Then she washed up herself in that "potion of youth and beauty".

Later on Eržebet was accused of several murders. She was found guilty and imprisoned. She died at the age of 54. Since her death, stories about the worst female serial killer have been spread across the world.







Pre-reading task

1. What do these pictures have in common?
2. What do you know about the Prague Spring?





While-reading task

1. Read the text and underline the most important facts.
2. What is the Moscow Protocol?
3. What happened on 21st August 1968?

Post-reading task

1. Find more information about the topic on the Internet.
2. Put the historical events into chronological order:
   a. Nikita Khrushchev started to govern the USSR
   b. the Moscow Protocol was published
   c. the first soldiers crossed the borders of Czechoslovakia
   d. Members of the Communist Party Central Committee flew to Moscow for negotiations
   e. a group of Russians protested on the Red Square in Moscow

August 1968

In August 1968, the Republic of Czechoslovakia was a satellite state of USSR. That meant that we were completely dependent on their politics. At the end of 1950's, in USSR Nikita Khrushchev started to govern the state and he was trying to repair the damage made by Stalin. Therefore, the politics he did was not so radical, allowing satellite states such as CzechoSlovakia to try to transform into more democratic government.

Those more liberal communists in the CzechoSlovakia were led by Alexander Dubcek, Smrkovský, Cernik and others. The president of Czechoslovakia was at that time (around 1968) Antonin Novotny and he held strictly communist ideas and tried to stop democratization. In January, Alexander Dubcek was elected as a secretary of the ÚV KSČ Committee, where he also tried to promote those ideas of liberalization. He wanted freedom for travelling, studying, and to improve relationships with non-communist countries. That period in Czechoslovakia was called the Prague Spring. The Soviets did not like and were afraid of losing the influence, which would have threatened them and so in June 1968 they began a preparation for a drastic intervention – a military invasion to Czechoslovakia. On 23rd and 24th March in Dresden, leaders of Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, Poland and the USSR had a meeting with the Czechoslovakian delegation (Dubček, Lenart, Cernik, Kolder, Bilak), where they sharply criticized the situation in Czechoslovakia. Our representatives were acquainted with the undesirable developments in the country and the need to make a reform that would bring them back to communism. In June, the Army of USSR, Bulgaria, Poland and East Germany had training in a small Czech village which was considered as a provocation and citizens became even more radicalized. In July, the leadership of the Central Committee was again invited to a meeting in Moscow where they were threatened that they have to keep their country under control or something bad would happen. Only Dubcek remained defending his opinions out of the original five Liberal representatives. On 3rd August 1968 the meeting of communist European countries took place in Bratislava. The meeting was about further development of Czechoslovakia. On 17th August the USSR threatened Dubček for the first time.

At that time East Germany started to broadcast that the Soviet Union would occupy Czechoslovakia soon. On August 18th a plan of invasion was approved in Moscow and on 20th August at 23:30 the first soldiers crossed the borders of Czechoslovakia. The units of Warsaw Pact surrounded us from 3 sides: from the north with Polish army and the army of USSR, from the west USSR and the east Germany and from the south of Hungary, Bulgaria and the Soviet units as well. An aircraft landed at the Prague airport and Soviets began to occupy Prague. An order from Parliament was not to resist, as this would be completely pointless, or even counterproductive. Slovak territory was invaded by 48,055 Soviet, 10,372 Hungarian and about 1000 Bulgarian troops so we could not resist. What the Soviets could not accomplish was the immediate restoration of Stalin´s communism and end the liberal wing. During the invasion 108 people were killed and about 1,000 injured. The only bigger resistance was in Prague while conquering Radio Prague where 30 people were killed and another 300 injured. Only 12 Soviet soldiers were killed, mostly by air and tank accidents and clashes with rebels. A few days later all Soviet soldiers were replaced by new ones who had to face almost no resistance from citizens. Gradually, people calmed down and were defeated. Because of that invasion up to 450,000 people immigrated in a short time to Western countries. Soviet troops remained in Czechoslovakia until 1992 when they went back to Russia. Dubcek, Cernik and Smrkovský were arrested after the invasion and

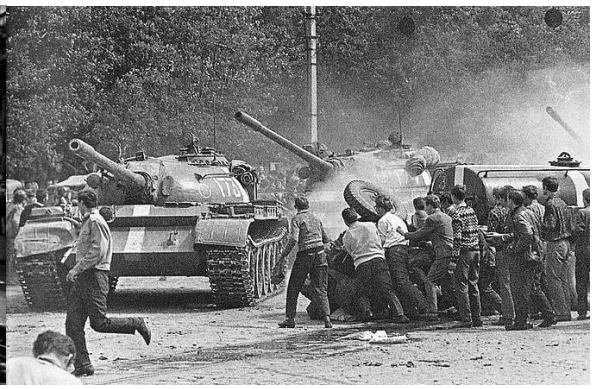
sent to Moscow. In August 23rd, Gustav Husak, Ludvik Svoboda, Martin Dzúr, Bohuslav Kucera and Vasil Bilak who were in the Communist Party Central Committee flew to Moscow for negotiations. They were forced to sign the so-called Moscow Protocol. It was a contract about legalization of invasion of Soviet troops in the Czechoslovakia and the normalization of the country. Protests against such occupation of the Czechoslovakia were also abroad, mainly in Finland, Sweden and the United States. There was also a meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations, but they interfered in no way. On 25th August a group of Russians protested on the Red Square in Moscow, but within 15 minutes they were all arrested and imprisoned.

Few Czechs, Slovaks, and even one Pole burned themselves in protest. They all died as a result but nothing was going to change the situation in the country.

Because of that Albania withdrew from the Warsaw Pact, and both Yugoslavia and Romania refused to send their own troops there. After that incident severe normalization came. It resulted in restrictions on basic human rights such as freedom of expression, opinion and they could not travel outside the USSR (of course except the high-ranked communists).

Later, in 1991, during a meeting of Vaclav Havel and the President of USSR Gorbachev Moscow Protocol was published. From all the leaders only Vasil Bilak was still alive in 1991. But he was given amnesty by the Slovak government so he did not go to the jail.







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- St. Hallvard videregående skole, Drammen, Norway

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