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STURMAN, PAUL: Papers, 1938-1989

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The Papers of Paul Sturman, staff member of the Office of War Information, were deposited in the Eisenhower Library in 1993 by his widow, Tanja Bella Sturman.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 1.6
Approximate number of pages: 3,200 pages

In February 1993 Mrs. Sturman executed an instrument of gift for these papers. Literary rights in the unpublished writings of Mr. Sturman in this collection and any other collections of papers received by the United States have been donated to the public. Under terms of the instrument of gift the following classes of documents are withheld from research use:

1. Papers which constitute an invasion of personal privacy or a libel of a living person.
2. Papers which are required to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are properly classified.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Paul Sturman's papers have been divided into two series and arranged in reverse chronological order by subject. The collection was largely unarranged when received by the Eisenhower Library, therefore undated items have been left in their original file location. Also, there is a large quantity of foreign language materials within the collection which have been arranged chronologically in so far as it was possible to determine dates. File folders are titled by subject, with annotations added which highlight the general subject matter of the file as well as particularly interesting documents.

Paul Sturman served in the Foreign Language Division of the Office of War (OWI) during World War II. The Foreign Language Division was a division of the News Bureau within the Domestic Operations Branch of the OWI. Alan Cranston, who later served as a prominent senator from California, was chief of the Foreign Language Division from 1942-1944. Sturman monitored activities of domestic foreign language groups primarily from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Yugoslavia. Sturman's papers document his activities from approximately 1940-1945 and include memorandums, publications, correspondence, weekly activity reports, news articles, reports, press releases, radio scripts, speeches, foreign language newspapers, various documents regarding foreign language organizations and meetings, and foreign language publications. Through his duties in OWI, Sturman also disseminated pro-Ally propaganda to these foreign language groups and countered Axis propaganda.

Sturman's OWI papers also contain documents relating to the Holocaust and general information on Jewish conditions in Axis-occupied territories. In fact, there is a comprehensive report of Jewish conditions in Poland within the collection. His OWI experiences (and later work with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration after the war) may have led to Sturman's later interest in the Holocaust during the 1980s. Documents relating to Sturman's activities with Holocaust organizations in the 1980s are located in the Holocaust series. A majority of the documents in this series are in a foreign language.

This collection will be useful to researchers interested in World War II propaganda, specifically propaganda aimed at foreign language groups in America. Researchers interested in the Holocaust may also find relevant materials within this collection.

CHRONOLOGY

- February 14, 1904 Born in Svaty Michal (St. Michael), Liptov District, Austria-Hungary
- 1920 Immigrated to America with his family
- 1924 Became a U.S. citizen
- 1926 Returned to his homeland, now part of Czechoslovakia, to marry his childhood sweetheart, Tanja Olga Bella
- 1930-1942 Editor of two Slovak newspapers, served four years as national recording secretary of the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Union, and studied at the Duquesne University Evening Law School
- 1942-45 Foreign Language Division, Office of War Information
- 1945-47 Displaced persons camp administrator in Europe with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
- 1947-50 Civilian intelligence specialist, Army Map Service
- 1954-75 Bookkeeper and accountant
- 1980-90 President of the Wilsonian Club, and organization of people of Czechoslovak ancestry, involved with Lafayette Masonic Lodge in D.C., and worked with the American fund for Czechoslovak Refugees. Also did freelance writing on American and Czechoslovak history for several Slovak-language publications in the U. S. and taught Czech, Slovak, and Hungarian.
- February 27, 1990 Died, Washington, D. C.

CONTAINER LIST

Box No. Contents

OWI Series

- 1 OWI General (1) [“Central European News” bulletins]
- OWI General (2) [publications on Austria and Hungary, posters]
- OWI General (3) [UN publication, articles for “News Digest,” text of speeches by Alan Cranston]
- OWI General (4) [chronology of Nazi record, guide for Foreign Language Press and Radio]
- OWI General (5)
- OWI General (6) [Life magazine]
- Czechoslovakia (1)
- Czechoslovakia (2) [text of speech by Elmer Davis in honor of Dr. Benes]
- Czechoslovakia (3) [document on propaganda dissemination methods, story ideas for “Inside Czechoslovakia” radio program, case file on former Czechoslovakia Premier Milan Hodza]
- 2 Czechoslovakia (4) [memos regarding Slovak League, reports on Czechoslovak Language Press]
- Czechoslovakia (5) [memos regarding Slovak press, suggestions to counter Axis propaganda, documents regarding Slovak meeting and resolution adopted (9/42), future of Czechoslovakia]
- Czechoslovakia (6)
- Czechoslovakia (7) [text of speech by Sturman, documents regarding “Inside Slovakia” radio program]
- Czechoslovakia (8) [document regarding Slovak resentment of German anti-Jewish activities]

- Czechoslovakia (9) [document on Benes, Slovak resolution]
- Czechoslovakia (10) [maps of Czechoslovakia]
- Hungary (1) [newsletter, documents dealing with anti-American sentiment in Hungarian papers, and documents regarding Otto Hapsburg]
- 3 Hungary (2) [documents dealing with Hungarian-Nazi spies]
- Hungary (3) [documents regarding Axis and anti-Axis jokes, and documents regarding Otto Hapsburg]
- Hungary (4) [transcript of radio broadcast, American Hungarian Federation membership list]
- Poland (1)
- Poland (2) [transcript of radio broadcast, documents on Axis propaganda]
- Poland (3) [map of Poland, map of Jewish communities in Poland, report on conditions of Poles and Jews in Polish concentration camps (7/42)]
- Russia
- Slav/General [documents regarding the Slav Congresses, text of speech by Harold L. Ickes (Interior Secretary)]
- 4 Yugoslavia (1) [newsletter]
- Yugoslavia (2)
- Yugoslavia (3)
- Yugoslavia (4) [documents on Croation Congress, resolution adopted by Slovenian Americans]
- Yugoslavia (5)
- Yugoslavia (6) [maps of Yugoslavia]
- Holocaust Series
- Holocaust (1) [news bulletins]

Holocaust (2)

END OF CONTAINER LIST