

Institute of National Remembrance

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Visit of the Slovak Nation's Memory Institute's delegation to the Institute of National Remembrance





















On 24—25 May 2022, a delegation of the Slovak counterpart of the Institute of National Remembrance (ÚPN) was visiting Warsaw. The representatives of the ÚPN: the Chairman of the ÚPN Board of Directors, Ján Pálffy, Ph.D., the Director of the Research Center, Peter Jašek, Ph.D., and the Director of the Office of the Chairman of the ÚPN Board of Directors, Jerguš Sivoš, Ph.D., met with Prof. Karol Polejowski, Deputy President of the IPN, Sebastian Pilarski, Ph.D, Director of the Historical Research Office and Prof. Mirosław Szumiło. Agnieszka Jędrzak, Director of the IPN International Cooperation Office and Magdalena Hajduk, Director of the New Technology Division also participated in the meetings.

The visit was organized by the the Office of International Relations of the IPN, and Deputy President, Prof. Karol Polejowski, responsible for the Office work, greeted the guests on behalf of President Karol Nawrocki and his own. The most important aspects of the ÚPN's cooperation with the IPN concerning jointly conducted projects and historical research were discussed, with a special emphasis on the next cyclical conference in Bratislava. The conference, which took place on 29 September 2021, — ["Communist Parties in the Soviet Bloc 1956-1968: From Destalinization to Economic Change"](#) — was the third event in the series "Revolution accomplished. Communists in Power," initiated by the IPN and co-organized by the Slovak ÚPN, the Czech Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (USTR), and the Hungarian Committee for National Remembrance (NEB).

During the meeting with the ÚPN authorities, Sebastian Pilarski, Ph.D,

focused on a new research project about the history of the 1980s and the systemic transformation that began in 1989. Thanks to cooperation with IPN's partners in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, the project can be expanded to include international aspects. The topics of interest include: how "Solidarity" movement was perceived in other countries of the Soviet bloc both from the perspective of the authorities and the society, the analysis of the process that led to the dismantling of the communist apparatus of repression and adaptation to the new reality after 1989. Comparative research based on the history of the 1980s in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary is intended to build a community of nations and raise public awareness as to the similarities in the struggle against communist totalitarianism.

The representatives of the ÚPN authorities also got acquainted with the structure of the Institute of National Remembrance and with the activities of the new office — New Technology Division. IPN presentation of the computer game ["Cyphers Game"](#) met with great interest and appreciation of our southern partners.

The representatives of the ÚPN declared their willingness to continue cooperation both in the field of research and in the field of joint organization of conferences and popular science meetings. Several times a year, discussion evenings are held in Bratislava, concerning common aspects of recent Polish and Slovak history. Within the framework of cooperation, the IPN and ÚPN publications are exchanged. Exhibitions presented in Slovakia by the Institute of National Remembrance are also very popular.

In the afternoon, the Slovak delegation accompanied by Krzysztof Szwagrzyk, Ph.D., Deputy President of the Institute of the IPN, went to the Powązki military cemetery. The visit to the so-called "Łączka" section took place on the eve of the 74th anniversary of the death of Witold Pilecki. The delegation also visited the "8 Strzelecka Street" Memorial Chamber, dedicated to the prisoners of the former detention center of the Provincial Office of Public Security in Warsaw. The guests were acquainted with the history of the former NKVD headquarters in Poland and the Security Service detention center.

On 25 May 2022, the delegation of ÚPN visited the IPN Archives. At the meeting, the Archive Director Marzena Kruk, accompanied by her Deputies Mariusz Żuławnik and Mariusz Kwaśniak, introduced the guests to the activities of the office. She also talked about the collections and the latest projects of the unit. At the end of the visit, the representatives of the Slovak Institute visited the conservation workshop.

The highpoint of the visit was the meeting of the heads of both institutions: the Chairman of the ÚPN Board of Directors, Ján Pálffy, Ph.D. and the President of the IPN, Karol Nawrocki, Ph.D. The Slovak Nation's Memory Institute is one of the most important foreign partners of the Institute of National Remembrance.

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