



Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Petr NEČAS

Prague, ²⁴ June 2013

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Thank you for your letter. I absolutely agree with your assessment of the situation in the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes and I may assure you that I am personally very concerned about the developments in this Institute. That is why I had repeatedly and clearly declared my position and expressed my support to the management of the Institute, which has regrettably left the office.

I consider Dr. Daniel Herman as a decent man and appreciate his achievements as Institute Director. Under his leadership a great piece of work was accomplished, including key projects like digitization of documents, which was progressing apace. I consider the way how the Council of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes treated him as entirely undignified.

The resignation of all members of the Academic Council, which consisted of indisputable and independent figures like Boston University professor Igor Lukeš, professor from Harvard Mark Kramer and the former Council Chairman Michael Kraus from Middlebury College, is a clear barometer of what is going on at the Institute.

The new completely incompetent management of the Institute, which was appointed by the Left, as well as the new Academic Council, which includes also long-time members of the Communist Party, opponents of the creation of the Institute and even pedagogues who during the times of totalitarianism taught history of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, are really warning signs for the Czech public.

I entirely agree that Europe will not be united unless it is able to form a common view of its history, recognize Nazism, Stalinism, fascism and communist regimes as common legacy and bring about an honest and thorough debate on the crimes of the past century.

It will be necessary to closely follow what next will happen at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes. The issue is not only the interpretation of the past but also the future of the Security Services Archive. Someone wants to achieve that this Archive does not pose a barrier against penetration of exponents of previous regime into the civil service. All indicates that they deem it necessary to take over control of the Institute. Therefore, the Security Services Archive is at risk of being paralysed, which would cause termination of data processing.

Regrettably, at the same time, I have to mention that my possibilities to directly intervene in this matter are limited because the appointment of members of the Council of the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes lies completely within the competence of the Senate, which is at the moment controlled by left-wing parties. This Council, in which the vacancies had been filled with candidates of the Left, is entirely responsible for the destructive steps at the Institute which took place eventually.

We who do not want to accept a number of personnel steps at the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes have no other choice than to use the available options to continue the efforts to prevent these steps, which pose a threat to the independent research into our recent past.

Thank you for your interest in this matter, which I will continue to follow.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Albrecht', written in a cursive style.

Mr Jan Philipp Albrecht
Member of the European Parliament

Ms Edit Bauer
Member of the European Parliament

Ms Kinga Gál

Member of the European Parliament

Ms Elisabeth Jeggle

Member of the European Parliament

Ms Sandra Kalniete

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Tunne Kelam

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Andrey Kovatchev

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Vytautas Landsbergis

Member of the European Parliament

Ms Monica Luisa Macovei

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Marian-Jean Marinescu

Member of the European Parliament

Ms Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė

Member of the European Parliament

Ms Kristiina Ojuland

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Cristian Dan Preda

Member of the European Parliament

Ms Zuzana Roithová

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Kārlis Šadurskis

Member of the European Parliament

Mr György Schöpflin

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Werner Schulz

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Csaba Sógor

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Peter Šťastný

Member of the European Parliament

Mr László Surján

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Konrad Szymański

Member of the European Parliament

Mr László Tőkés

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Paweł Zalewski

Member of the European Parliament

Mr Milan Zver

Member of the European Parliament

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