

## ELECTIONS OF 1946

*26. mája 1946 bola pekná májová nedeľa, plná jasu a kvetov. Bola to však aj neobyčajná nedeľa. Ako ten deň vyzeral v takej normálnej slovenskej rodine? Ráno sa nikomu nechcelo dlhšie spať, ranné slnko lákalo vybehnúť na dvor, do záhrady. Rodina sa vychystala a šla do kostola. Po omši mamka vysmažila rezne, na stole zavoňala hovädzia polievka. Po nedeľnom obede dostali deti niekoľko prísnych napomenutí, že sa nesmú vzdávať z dvora. Majú sa pekne hrať a čakať na rodičov. Sviatočne oblečení rodičia išli voliť. Volby, to musí byť čosi veľmi dôležité!*

### 1. WHY WERE THE ELECTIONS OF 1946 SO IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL?

### 2. POLITICAL PARTIES BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

#### - in Bohemia – four parties:

- the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia
- the National-Socialistic Party
- the People's Party
- the Social-Democratic Party

#### - in Slovakia – four parties:

- the Communist Party of Slovakia – Klement Gottwald
- the Democratic Party – Jozef Lettrich
- the Labour Party – Ivan Dérer
- the Freedom Party – Vavro Šrobár

- the Germans and Hungarians could not vote.

### 3. THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

- **in Slovakia** the Democratic Party won the elections as it received 62% of the votes and the communists 30% of the votes
- **Institutions:** in the **Slovak National Council** – the Democratic Party – 63 seats, the Communists – 31 seats
- the chairman of the Slovak National Council – Jozef Lettrich
- the chairman of the **Board of Commissioners** – Gustáv Husák

- in Czechoslovakia - the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia with 40% of the votes won the elections
- **President:** Eduard Beneš
- **Prime Minister:** Klement Gottwald
- **Vice Prime Minister:** Vladimír Široký
- Government appointed: on **2<sup>nd</sup> July 1946**
- Government consisted of:
  - 9 Communists
  - 4 National Socialists
  - 4 representatives of the People's Party
  - 4 Slovak Democrats
  - 3 Social Democrats
  - 2 without political reference

### **WERE THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS A FAILURE FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY?**

- the Communists considered the results to be the failure for the Communist Party

#### **4. THREE PRAGUE AGREEMENTS**

- gradually the powers of the Slovak authorities – the Slovak National Council and the Board of Commissioners were limited in favour of Prague institutions - this was expressed in **Three Prague Agreements**
- **The Third Prague Agreement – 28<sup>th</sup> June 1946**
- according to that agreement the Slovak National Council was obliged to put the proposals of laws in advance to the government for the confirmation
- the government controlled both the Slovak National Council and the Board of Commissioners

## 5. THE PROCESS WITH Dr. JOZEF TISO

Ø in order to gain the greatest support among Catholics before the elections of 1946 the Democratic Party promised to ask for the clemency for Jozef Tiso

Ø Jozef Tiso was captured by the American forces and deported back to Bratislava.

Ø **Jozef Tiso accused of:**

§ the participation on the braking up of the Czechoslovak republic

§ the persecution of Jews

§ the treason in the Slovak National uprising

§ pushing Slovakia into war

Ø the process with Jozef Tiso, Alexander Mach and Ferdinand Ďurčanský lasted **from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1946 till 19<sup>th</sup> March 1947**

Ø **The sentence was:**

§ Death Penalty for Jozef Tiso and Ferdinand Ďurčanský

§ 30 years of imprisonment for Alexander Mach

- only the president E. Beneš could set an amnesty. He expressed that he would agree with the suggestion of the government. The government voted for the death penalty and E. Beneš accepted the government's decision

Ø **18<sup>th</sup> April 1947 Jozef Tiso executed**

Ø the popularity of the Democratic Party decreased