

es conveyed by His prophets and spread by His messengers.

Thus do good and evil enter in eternal conflict; and thus does the Land of the Arabs, the cradle of Prophets and the birthplace of Divine Messages, become the hotbed and the battleground for their elements.

In as much as the Prophets born in the Land of the Arabs, including Jesus Christ, were messengers to man, sent by the will of God to help humanity at large to spread His Divine Word, then the outcome of the conflict, as we envision it, is one of peace, love, the triumph of good over evil, the rejection of the starvation of the poor in order to make the rich richer, and destroying the chains in which tyrants have fettered liberty, the liberty which we pray to see enjoyed by the whole of humanity, oppressor as well as oppressed.

We want freedom for all nations and peoples, be they white, yellow, or black. This cannot be achieved unless the people of our nation become their own masters.

In this great conflict, as in the case of all major confrontations, the powers of evil have stood on the one side led by the devil, while the powers of good have stood on the other side inspired by the high values of God Almighty, emulating the symbols of faith in their patience, their perseverance, their moral rectitude, and their justice.

No one in the history of our nation and of humanity at large is deeper in his faith, higher in his morality, more vigorous in the defense of justice, or stronger in his patience

and perseverance than the Prophets and Messengers of God and those who followed the faith in God guided by the great principles of life and the Jihad for the word and call of God.

In this confrontation there have been traitors to Jesus Christ and traitors to the principles and values of Islam—traitors enticed by the devil, guiding and emulating each other. May God curse them all! For the teachings of Jesus Christ are as absolved of their conduct as are the principles of Islam. In the same way as did Judas betray trust and Jesus Christ, so has Bush betrayed, through his hostility and deep-rooted evil, the teachings of Jesus Christ.

In the same way as did the renegades and hypocrites betray the principles of Islam during the life of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him), during the early days of Islam, so has the so-called “custodian” of the two Holy Mosques betrayed the trust given to him, the principles of Islam, and the values of Pan-Arabism, hence deserving the more fitting title of “Traitor of the two Holy Mosques,” who has succeeded in bringing more evil and causing more harm and profanity to the will of God and to our great nation than Abu-Rughal, the traitor who guided the army of Abrahah along the road to Mecca.

May God bestow health and happiness upon all, fill them with hope, strengthen their faith in all that pleases Him and help them realize their hopes in goodness, love, and peace.

Peace be upon you.

## Czechs and Slovaks still together, but . . .

*A report from Prague by a guest contributor:*

The post-communist wave of nationalism has not missed Czechoslovakia: The center of conflict was and most probably will be again “law on competences,” the division of rights and responsibilities among Czech, Slovak, and federal governments, with the main divide being between the Slovak one and federal one. The question of competences is closely connected to the division of taxes among the governments.

The recent crisis was caused by the threat of Slovak Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar to declare superiority of Slovak laws over the federal ones in the case that the federal Parliament would not accept the Slovak version of the law on competences. After an emotional appeal by President Václav Havel in the Parliament and his proposal of enlarging the presidential powers, a compromise version, very similar to the Slovak proposal, has been adopted. Part of the law is division of the tax income in the ratio

of 35% for the federal government, 40% for the Czech one, and 25% for the Slovak one, that is highly favorable to the citizens of the Slovak republic, which are only one-third—and substantially less productive—of the Czechoslovak population.

However painful and unacceptable this compromise may be for some Czechs, because it continues a 40-year-old communist policy of subsidizing Slovakia, it will not last very long. In 1991, the new Constitution is on Parliament’s agenda, which will mean reopening of all basic questions of Czech-Slovak relations, not to speak about numerous Hungarians (600,000 in Slovakia), Germans, Poles, Gypsies, and other nationalities. Further on, there is still powerful and influential nationalist movement in Slovakia, that is not content with the very advantageous deal, because it does not look for deals with Czechs.

Given the economic weakness of Slovakia, conventional wisdom expects Slovakia to stay within the borders of the Czechoslovak state. However, there are historical periods, such as the present one, when this kind of wisdom does not count for much. Breaking points of history are seldom expected, and the will of the Slovak nation for its own state may be stronger than economic arguments.

—Dušan Mrňa, Prague