

PRAGUE HINTS END OF PURGE STUDIES

Prosecutor Says Inquiries
Harm Communist Cause

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VIENNA, Sept. 2—The Czechoslovak regime indicated today that it intended to shut off the inquiries into miscarriages of justice during the Stalinist era that started with liberalization last year.

The policy shift was discussed today by the chief military prosecutor, Col. Zbynek Kiesewetter, in an interview in the Communist party newspaper Rude Pravo.

The official also voiced doubt whether investigations of the controversial death of Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk and other mysteries in Czechoslovakia's political history would "serve the cause of socialism."

Colonel Kiesewetter declared that the state prosecutor's office would in due course inform the public of its findings in the Masaryk case. The matter-of-fact tone used by the official seemed intent on preparing the Czechoslovak people for an announcement that Mr. Masaryk died indeed by falling or jumping out of a Prague window on March 10, 1948.

Friends Are Skeptical

This official version of the death of the Foreign Minister, a son of Thomas G. Masaryk, the first President of the Czechoslovak Republic, soon after the Communist take-over of February, 1948, has from the beginning seemed hard to believe to many of his friends and followers. Last week, the lib-

eral leadership ordered an inquiry into allegations that the Foreign Minister had been murdered because of his opposition to the Communists.

Cases like that of Jan Masaryk "formed a setting for the agitated political atmosphere of last year that suited the intentions of certain individuals," the military prosecutor said in the interview.

He explained that these individuals, meaning progressive Communists and critics of the Communist party, aimed at discrediting the police and the judiciary. He said these agencies ought to be under public control, but warned that they must not be exposed to public "pressure."

Generalization Opposed

Referring to the proceedings to rehabilitate the victims of Stalinist political trials, Colonel Kiesewetter said alleged irregularities "should not be generalized." He contended that state security agencies had on the whole always worked for the defense of the nation and its socialist development.

Czechoslovak experts here said this was a hint that Prague was now placing emphasis on rehabilitating the secret police and other security agencies rather than their victims. These sources predicted that a long-overdue report on Czechoslovak officials who were instrumental in miscarriages of justice, some of them still serving in official positions, would not be published.

This report was ordered by the liberal leadership last year and is known to have been completed early this year. Party officials in Prague said until a few months ago that the report consisted of close to 300 pages studded with facts and names, and that it was up to the party's Central Committee to publish it.