

The International Response to the Campaign Aimed at Saving Hungary's State Security Files

Ottawa, Canada – April 2011

hungarianarchives.com

Contents

Media Response:

The Associated Press	3
The Economist	6
Transitions Online	8
Radio Europa Libera (Moldova)	9
Radio France Internationale – Vietnamese edition	9

Academic Response:

USA – Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies	10
Association of Canadian Archivists	11
Society of Greek Archivists	12
Royal Society of Dutch Archivists	13
Society of American Archivists	14
Czech Centre for Human Rights and Democratization	16
Canadian Historical Association	17

Hungarian Political Response

Hungarian Socialist Party's response to Christopher Adam	18
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Historians want Hungary communist files protected

Pablo Gorondi (AP) – March 4, 2011

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — People spied on by Hungary's communist-era secret police would have the right to destroy their surveillance reports under a government proposal historians say would damage the country's ability to acknowledge its past.

The regime's network of informants once kept as many as 1.6 million people under close scrutiny, with relatives and neighbors informing on each other and the secret services compiling over 12 miles worth of files.

The government says it is drafting legislation giving those spied upon the right to decide whether to save the original documents, keep them for their grandchildren or even destroy them.

"A state ruled by law cannot keep personal information collected through unconstitutional means, as these are immoral documents of an immoral regime," the justice ministry said.

The plan has surprised experts as a highlight of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's first term was establishing a museum which exhibits the wrongdoings of fascist and communist dictatorial regimes in the country's history.

Historians have said the right of those contained in the reports to decide their future would hinder further research of the communist regime that ruled the country between 1948 and 1990.

"Records that provide evidence of injustices hold accountable those responsible for abuses of trust and power," the Association of Canadian Archivists said in a letter last week to Hungary's ambassador in Ottawa.

International attention to the archive plan was initially raised by Christopher Adam, a history lecturer at Canada's Carleton University.

"Archival records provide evidence documenting the actions of public leaders and protecting the rights of all citizens," the archivists said.

Allowing people to remove the files "would only weaken Hungarians' ability to hold those officials accountable and would thus undermine a fundamental pillar of democracy," wrote Association of Canadian Archivists president Loryl MacDonald.

Maria Schmidt, director of Budapest's House of Terror museum, said she hoped lawmakers would rethink the plan.

"If these files are handed over, facts and connections will be no longer be able to be researched," Schmidt said. "Without them, we cannot create a precise picture of the regime and we can't show future generations the meaning of terror, the dictatorship's manipulateness and nature and the arising human depravity."

The museum contains material on Hungary's relationship to Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union, as well as exhibits related to organizations, such as the fascist Arrow Cross Party and the communist AVH — similar to the Soviet Union KGB secret police. Part of the exhibition takes visitors to the basement, where they can see examples of the cells the AVH used to break prisoners' wills.

The government says scientific research will still be guaranteed by the legislation, which has to be drafted by November, but permission for historians to access personal files will have to be granted by the subjects of the files, instead of the institution where the files are stored.

Historians, researchers and other professionals on the subject will be consulted in the legislative process, the justice ministry said.

One challenge the government has not addressed is that the pages in the files usually contain information about more than one person. So, if an original page is removed from the files and given to someone included in the report, it would be impossible for the others to see what was written about them.

Janos Kenedi, a writer and researcher who until Jan. 3 headed an official committee in charge of evaluating thousands of pre-1990 secret files still in the hands of the current secret services, says laws already provide spied-upon individuals protection while still leaving files intact.

"All victims have the right to ask the state security archives to classify any files relating to them for 90 years," Kenedi said. "But anyone who cuts out pages from the original files with a razor denies others the right to access their own history."

Also, personal information in the files, such as someone's religion or sexual orientation, is not available even to researchers.

The House of Terror was one of the highlights of Orban's first premiership from 1998 to 2002. Many also still remember his groundbreaking speech in 1989 — when Hungary's transition to democracy was still uncertain — calling for the removal of Soviet troops stationed in the country.

Experts are surprised by Orban's latest move, as they feel he was finally exposing Hungary's troubled past. Yet now, they say, he is playing a role in destroying it.

Many say the plan for the archives fits in with several other steps taken by the government since Fidesz, Orban's party, won a two-thirds parliamentary majority in April 2010 elections.

The overwhelming popular support has emboldened the government to disregard most dissent, weaken basic democratic institutions and distort the system of check and balances.

It has curtailed the powers of the Constitutional Court, neutered the Fiscal Council, a budget watchdog, and created a media law which attracted heavy criticism from the European Union and is feared will allow the government to clamp down on the opposition press.

Many institutions, including the 1956 Institute which studies that year's anti-Soviet revolution, have seen the government cut their budget and their fate is uncertain.

"The government thinks it can put an end to the past," Kenedi said. "For Fidesz, history starts and ends with them and what came before in Hungarian history does not exist. Their aim is collective amnesia."

Politicians may also be hoping to do away with potentially damaging information, experts said.

"It is very difficult to see the destruction of Hungarian archives as anything other than a crude political move on the part of politicians who are concerned about potentially unpleasant and embarrassing documents on their relationship with the former regime that may one day be found by historians," wrote Adam, the Canadian lecturer and archivist.

An online petition launched by Adam to ensure the archives' integrity has attracted nearly 2,000 signatures.

Hungary lags behind other former members of the Soviet bloc in fully opening its archives and nearly 30 percent of the files are still classified and under the control of state security.

While some historians and journalists have published the names of informants and agents in books and the Internet, official lists have yet to be made public.

Nonetheless, the names of former communist secret agents — from actors and athletes to politicians, priests and intellectuals — continue to trickle out every few weeks and months.

Closing down history

T.E. – February 28, 2011

SHREDDING a historical archive is an unorthodox step, but this is, in effect, Hungary's answer to the 20-year conundrum of what to do with the files left behind by its communist-era secret police.

The government is planning [legislation](#) that will allow the subjects of files compiled by the security services to take home documents that refer to them. Then they can do what they like: burn them, bin them or publish them.

Individually, the reports hold little of interest to anyone other than their subjects. But taken together they constitute a priceless record of Hungary's post-war history. Once dispersed, the archive will no longer serve as a trove for historians seeking to shed light on Hungary's chaotic 20th century.

"Without the archive, we lose the ability to find out who we are as a society," says János Kenedi, a historian of Hungary's security services. "And it's society as a whole that's committing hara-kiri, because it'll be the files' own subjects who'll destroy the archive".

Bence Rétvári, a junior minister tasked with drafting the legislation, which is due to be passed in November, says the reports are the "immoral documents of an immoral regime... The individual should decide whether he wants to make them public or put them in a drawer."

Secret-police archives have been a problem throughout ex-communist Europe. For one, they provide a wealth of material to blackmailers. Péter Medgyessy, a Socialist former prime minister of Hungary, never recovered after it was revealed, in 2002, that he had been an informer. And then there is the personal cost in broken relationships when files reveal individual betrayals and deceptions, sometimes decades after the fact.

No country has found the perfect answer. Hungary's archives have been open to authorised historians with an approved research topic. Other countries allow individuals to consult (but not remove) the files of which they are the subjects. In Romania, files on prominent figures in politics and the church are, notoriously, missing, with no explanation of how they vanished.

Historians are worried. [Christopher Adam](#), a historian at Carleton University in Canada, has [written](#):

It is very difficult to see the destruction of Hungarian archives as anything other than a crude political move on the part of politicians who are concerned about potentially unpleasant and embarrassing documents on their relationship with the former regime that may one day be found by historians. Such documents may even suggest that some of the

most fervent anti-communist politicians today were of a rather different opinion only two decades ago.

Mr Adam has started up a protest [petition](#), which has been signed by a host of world-class historians. One is Cambridge's [Richard Evans](#), who said the destruction of the archive would be a "scandal".

Mr Kenedi, who has devoted years to researching stories of persecution and unjust imprisonment in the 1950s and 1960s, points out that the documents remain useful. Moreover, he points out, many never made it into the public archive. About a third of the political police's files remain in the hands of five successor organisations, where they are classified for 60 to 90 years. These will not be released.

"What the national security services think important is being preserved," he says. "And everything else is being destroyed."

Miklós Haraszti, as quoted in *Transitions Online*

The all-front attacks on rule of law, civility, and democratic habits, kulturkampf, witch-hunt, etc, are so overwhelming that the home forces of normalcy are just baffled. This issue is a “small” part of it. Fidesz — contrary to its anticommunist rhetoric — has always sided with the ex-communists in suppressing or damaging good legislation about the “files”. Namely, Fidesz and the Socialists together have successfully blocked the “liberation” of the files of the III/I and the III/II departments, that is intelligence and counterintelligence, claiming national interests. (So far, only the files of the III/III, that is, of the “internal enemy department” have been handled so-so.) The proposed measures, and to a certain extent the uproar created by it, help hiding this unchanged empowerment of the secret services to keep or release files in an unaccounted way and thus blackmail people as it pleases. Now, with the help of their 2/3 majority, Fidesz indeed proposed the described explicit dispersal mechanism with the described implicit consequences. (At the moment there is no draft law, but they always table laws in a surprise manner via individual MPs after secret codification in order to avoid public discussion — that is what happened to the media laws as well.) The proposal’s language — nominally — serves “citizens’ information rights”. But the essence of it is to avoid for good any public scrutiny of pre-history of their own ranks.

My only remark is that it is equally important to protest against the plan that today’s secret services should keep their grip on the still undisclosed files — that they should remain the “owners” of the intelligence and counterintelligence files, and should be free to decide without any public scrutiny which files go to the public archive — thus blackmail who they want, while the already released files would disappear in the hands of the victims as described and protested already. Of course, a real full access to one’s own files a la Germany would be welcome, but not a dispersal of the files, while a great part of the files escapes any public or private scrutiny and the secret services continue owning them.

Radio Europa Liberă *(Selection)*

Almost 1,400 academics and archivists from around the world have thus far signed a petition calling for the Hungarian government to abandon the project of a law that will allow for the removal and destruction of original documents held in the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security. These plans would erase the memory of abuse, suffering and—in short order—the memory of the communist regime.

RFI – tiet viet *(Selection)*

After being publicly condemned for stifling free speech, the right-wing Hungarian government had to deal with criticism concerning its disregard of history. World historians have objected to a government decree, which would create the conditions for the communist-era secret documents to be given to the individuals involved and disposed of. (...) Recognizing and facing the past is one of the foremost needs of the countries in post-communist Central Europe, including Hungary.

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

23 February 2011

Georgy Szapary, Ambassador
Embassy of Hungary
Washington, DC

Dear Ambassador Szapary:

I write on behalf of ASEEEES, the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. We are the largest international professional association of scholars of the formerly socialist bloc, with just under three thousand members.

I joined with many of my colleagues in being startled by pending legislation before the Hungarian parliament that would withdraw the assurance of preservation of archives from, and relating to, the socialist period. However dim a view one might take of socialist rule in eastern Europe, I know of no one who would not insist on the careful preservation of its archival legacy, as required for best understanding this influential historical epoch.

Such legislation also challenges what has been the remarkable, tireless work of Hungarian archivists over the past twenty years. They have earned the extraordinary admiration of Hungarian and foreign scholars alike for their scrupulous cataloguing of papers from the socialist period, thanks to the country's new intellectual freedoms. They managed to do this in periods of relative privation, for the good of the country, and for the good of scholarship more broadly.

The association very much urges Hungarian legislators to support this crucial historical database.

With kind regards,



Bruce Grant
President, ASEEEES
Professor, New York University



Association
of Canadian
Archivists

email aca@archivists.ca www.archivists.ca

His Excellency Dr. László Pordány
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary
299 Waverley Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9

February 24, 2011

Dear Dr. Pordány:

I am writing you on behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to express our deep concern with the Hungarian government's decision to introduce legislation that would permit the removal and destruction of Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry, and state security files currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Budapest.

Established in 1975, the ACA is a national professional organization that represents English-speaking archivists in Canada. Archivists have a professional obligation to preserve authentic and reliable records for evidentiary and historical purposes. As archivists, we strongly believe that archives are the foundation of democracy, social justice, and social memory.

We reject the notion that a democratic state cannot "preserve the immoral documents of an immoral regime". On the contrary, records that provide evidence of injustices hold accountable those responsible for abuses of trust and power. Archival records provide evidence documenting the actions of public leaders and protecting the rights of all citizens. As Canadian archivist Terry Cook states, archival records have allowed "citizens to seek justice in righting past wrongs, from aboriginal displacements to war crimes, from medical neglect to ethnic discrimination." Removing documents from the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security because they are deemed to have been created by "immoral" authorities would only weaken Hungarians' ability to hold those officials accountable and would thus undermine a fundamental pillar of democracy.

Further, we strongly believe that de-accessioning these irreplaceable documents would impoverish Hungary's archival heritage. It would undermine our ability to know and understand an important aspect of Hungary's past. Preserving the Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry, and state security files supports an accurate account of the past and ensures that collective amnesia does not prevail.

The Association of Canadian Archivists believes that the Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry, and state security files currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security have enduring value as reliable memories of the past. We urge the government of Hungary to take all steps consistent with professional archival practice to preserve these unique and important records. Anything less is an abdication of your government's responsibility to uphold democratic values and to preserve and to protect Hungary's collective memory.

Yours Sincerely,

Loryl MacDonald, President
Association of Canadian Archivists



His Excellency József Tóth
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary
25-29 Karneadou Street
106 75 Athens

February 26, 2011

Dear Mr Tóth:

I am writing you on behalf of the Society of Greek Archivists (SGA), to express our deep concern for the Hungarian government's decision to introduce legislation that would permit the removal and destruction of Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry and state security files currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Budapest.

Established in 1990, and a member of the International Congress on Archives (ICA), the SGA is the nationwide professional organization representing archivists in Greece. One of the fundamental notions of our profession is that archives are the basis of democracy, social justice and social memory.

We strongly oppose the concept that a democratic state cannot "preserve the immoral documents of an immoral regime". On the contrary, we point out that records providing evidence of injustice hold accountable those responsible for any abuse of trust and power. Archival records provide evidence, by documenting the actions of public leaders, and protecting the rights of all citizens.

In Greece, we experienced a similar situation in the past: back in 1989, 40 years after the end of our civil war and 15 years after the fall of the colonels' dictatorship, the Greek government decided to destroy the police security files, "to symbolically end an era of national disunity and guarantee a future of equality and egalitarianism among citizens". Since then, an important part of our history, based on evidence concerning the involvement of the Greek people in the resistance during the German Occupation, the five years of civil war and the seven years of dictatorship (1967-1974), is for ever lost.

Removing documents from the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security because they are deemed to have been created by "immoral" authorities would only erase forever their "immoral" acts, together with the "moral" actions of the Hungarian people during the given period, and would thus undermine a fundamental pillar of democracy. Preserving the aforementioned archival material supports an accurate account of the past and ensures that collective and, even worst, selective amnesia do not prevail.

The Society of Greek Archivists believes that the Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry, and state security files currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security have enduring value as reliable memories of the past. We urge the government of Hungary to take all steps consistent with professional archival practice to preserve these unique and important records. Anything less is an abdication of your government's responsibility to uphold democratic values and to preserve and protect Hungary's collective memory.

Seeing the fallacy of the Greek government on this issue, we recommend you do not commit the same unfairness towards the citizens of Hungary: people write history, they do not erase it.

Yours Sincerely,

Nestor Bamidis, President
Society of Greek Archivists



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His Excellency Mr. Gyula Sümeqhy
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary
Hogeweg 14
2585 JD Den Haag

Arnhem, March 7, 2011

Dear Mr. Sümeqhy,

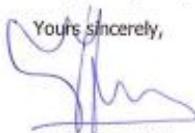
On behalf of the Royal Society of Dutch Archivists (Koninklijke Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland, KVAN) I am writing you to express our deep concern for the Hungarian government's proposal to introduce legislation that would permit the removal and destruction of Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry and state security files currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Budapest.

Established in 1892, the KVAN is the professional organization representing graduated archivists in The Netherlands. Archivists have a professional obligation to preserve authentic and reliable records for evidentiary and historical purposes. As archivists, we strongly believe that archives are the foundation of democracy and social memory. Furthermore we believe that conscientiously dealing with the past will strengthen social justice.

De-accessioning the documents mentioned above would impoverish Hungary's archival heritage. These archives bear witness to political repression and to violations of human rights. Silencing the past would be dramatic for the Hungarian people. It would undermine the ability to critically examine and understand an important aspect of Hungary's recent history.

We urge the government of Hungary to take all steps consistent with professional archival practice to defend and preserve these archives. Anything less is an abdication of your government's responsibility to uphold democratic values and to protect Hungary's collective memory.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Fred van Kan
President



March 8, 2011

His Excellency György Szapáry
Embassy of the Republic of Hungary
3910 Shoemaker Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008

Ambassador Szapáry:

The Society of American Archivists is deeply concerned about a recent decision by the Hungarian Ministry of Public Information and Justice with regard to the government archives. The Ministry apparently has decided to rectify historical wrongs committed by the former communist regime in Hungary by de-accessioning the surveillance files assembled by the nation's secret police and Ministry of the Interior. These files are scheduled to be removed from the Historical Archives of Hungarian State Security and returned permanently to their subjects, who presumably will be permitted to destroy their own files at their discretion.

We believe that the Hungarian government is likely sincere in its desire to see moral justice done. The comment by Parliamentary Secretary of State Bence Retvari that, "a constitutional state cannot preserve personal information collected through unconstitutional means, because these are the immoral documents of an immoral regime," is, it can be argued, legitimately noble. The wrongs committed against the freedoms of the Hungarian people during the former regime were many, not least of which was the violation of the fundamental right of citizens to be free from illegal surveillance by their own government. The files in question represent the worst abuses of a regime that thrived on distrust, suspicion, and institutional paranoia. Return of those files to the people who once were victimized by the organs of Hungarian State Security might well be seen as an attempt in good faith to restore citizens at least a small sense of the personal power and autonomy that was taken from them.

However, those same files also help to document a critical period in the history of the Hungarian nation and people. Leaving aside the potential richness of the information contained within the files themselves, they provide a crucial and unmatched documentation of the ways in which the government of the time interacted with the people it claimed to represent. To remove and destroy the files would be to do violence to the archival heritage

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of the nation, would create an unbridge-able chasm in the historical record, and would, we believe, prevent a full understanding of the history of the age.

Whether intentionally or unintentionally, this decision could allow the Hungarian government to avoid a full historical reckoning with the abuses in its past. By de-accessioning and dispersing the files in question, the government is eschewing its responsibility as guardian of its document-ary record and its cultural legacy. By disseminating the records into smaller and smaller numbers and permitting individuals to destroy their own files, the government is compromising the possibility of a full and reasonable discussion of the moral issues surrounding the communist period.

Despite its best intentions, the government may, in fact, be concealing crimes and immoral acts committed by the former regime and its members.

The Society of American Archivists, which represents 6,000 archivists in the United States, urges the Hungarian government to reconsider its decision concerning these files. The records should be considered the property of the Hungarian nation as a whole and not that of any individual. They are the elements of a history that belongs to an entire people. No people, no nation, can ever hope to fully grasp the complexities, moral ambiguities, and human decisions that go into making history with an archival record that has been broken up piecemeal.

Sincerely,



Helen R. Tibbo
President, 2010 – 2011

cc: SAA Human Rights Archives Roundtable
SAA International Affairs Roundtable
SAA Issues and Advocacy Roundtable

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His Excellency Laszlo Szoke
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary
Pod Hradbami 17, Praha 6, Střešovice

In Brno, 14 March 2011

His Excellency, dear Ambassador Szoke

I am writing you on behalf of the Czech Centre for Human Rights and Democratization to express our deep concern for the case relating to the Hungarian legislation which would permit the removal and destruction of the secret police, state security and Ministry of the Interior documentation recently stored at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Budapest.

The Czech Centre for Human Rights and Democratization (CCHRD) established under the aegis of International Institute of Political Science, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic, represents independent academic center focusing on impartial scientific research within the field of human rights and democratization. As an organization dedicated to the analysis of human rights from both social science and international law points of view, CCHRD is highly aware of the need to protect and preserve the files creating the foundation for the future research of Hungarian collective memory. We strongly believe that detailed knowledge of history is necessary for better understanding of the communist era, its oppressive regime, and the search for the truth and justice.

There is nothing immoral about the preservation of files recounting the historical events and injustices. Quite to the contrary, many democratic states consider the opening of archives as one of the many steps towards combating the impunity. The access to the files that document activities of the former regimes is irrevocably connected to the transitional justice and national reconciliation. The very first attempt to deal with former secret police informers took place in Germany, where the Gauck-Behörde Agency was appointed to collect and administer the files of StASL. Similar experience is shared by the Czech Republic where the access to files from the communist era was established in 1996 and its widening represents one of the most discussed themes to these days.

Reluctance of the Hungarian government towards the release and free access to the documents is unfortunately not a new issue. In case *Kenedi v. Hungary* (Appl. no. 31475/05), the European Court of Human Rights held that "access to original documentary sources for legitimate historical research was an essential element of the exercise of the applicant's right to freedom of expression." Similarly, the opinion at the level of European Union is, that all states considering themselves democratic shall open all their archives to researchers 30 years after the occurrence of the events in question (e.g. *The memory of the crimes committed by totalitarian regimes in Europe*, COM(2010) 783). The right to know the truth concerning past events about the perpetration of heinous crimes and about the circumstances and reasons that led to their perpetration is identified by the United Nations as one of the three core rights fundamental to preventing revisionism or denial and to the restoration of the rule of law in transitional societies (*Set of Principles to Combat Impunity*, UN Doc.E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1).

We hope and believe, that the Republic of Hungary will follow the way led by other European democratic states, uphold its responsibility towards the victims of the communist regime, towards history and future generations and cease from the step which would lead into amnesia and oblivion.

On behalf of the Czech Centre for Human Rights and Democratization

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March 8, 2011

His Excellency Dr. László Pordány
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary
299 Waverley Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9

Dear Dr. Pordány:

The Canadian Historical Association joins the ranks of historians and archivists from around the world in expressing our concern over the Hungarian Legislature's preparation of a law which would destroy many of the records of Hungarian communist secret police, interior ministry, and state security apparatus currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Budapest.

The Canadian Historical Association/Société historique du Canada (CHA/SHC) is the oldest and largest organization representing professional historians in Canada. Founded in 1922, the bilingual organization is dedicated to scholarship in all fields of history. It has a membership of about 1000, made up primarily of historians engaged as professionals from all regions of Canada and abroad.

As we write this letter to you we are also making an argument to our own Canadian federal court with respect to granting access to historical security files in our own archives. We do so because the files of state security agencies are amongst the most important held in any country's archives. It is vital to the history and memory of the country and those citizens affected that the role of the state in monitoring and punishing its citizens be available and open. This is the only way that a country and indeed the world can know, how a state has lived up to, or violated its responsibilities to its people. It is the only way for some of the wronged to seek redress. Only through awareness of the fact and frank discussion of the painful periods of the past, can a country seek reconciliation and move forward.

The CHA/SHC rejects the argument that because these records were collected illegally by an immoral regime they should be destroyed. On the contrary, these are potentially the most valuable proof that the regime engaged in illegal activities. The loss of this massive archive of state surveillance will wipe out the memory of a key part of the communist regime.

The CHA/SHC believes that the security files currently held at the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security have enduring value to Hungarians but also to the international community. We urge the government of Hungary to take all steps consistent with professional archival practice to preserve these unique and important records.

Yours Sincerely

Mary Lynn Stewart
President, Canadian Historical Association



MAGYAR SZOCIALISTA PÁRT

Mesterházy Attila
frakcióvezető

Christopher Adam
részére

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Tisztelt Christopher Adam!

A Magyar Szocialista Párt országgyűlési képviselőcsoportja természetesen figyelemmel kíséri a Kormány jogszabály-alkotási terveit, koncepcióit. Így, Önökhöz hasonlóan, értesültünk arról, hogy a 1283/2010. (XII. 15.) Korm. határozat egy új „dossziétörvény” tervezetének elkészítésére kérte fel a Közigazgatási és Igazságügyi Minisztériumot. A kormányhatározatban és Rétvári Bence államtitkár úr nyilatkozatában felvázolt elképzelés, ami lehetővé tenné az Állambiztonsági Szolgálatok Történeti Levéltárában őrzött iratok megfigyelt személyek részére történő átadását, valóban magában rejt a levéltár állományába tartozó iratok széthordásának veszélyét. A levéltári állomány védelmének megszüntetése nemcsak Magyarország közelmúltjának feltárását akadályozhatja, hanem akár a történelemhamisítás előtt is megnyithatja az utat. Azonban csak a törvénytervezet szövegének ismeretében lehet állást foglalni abban a kérdésben, hogy a Kormány tervei valóban akadályozzák-e, és ha igen milyen mértékben a múlt feltárását.

A Magyar Szocialista Párt továbbra is fenntartja azt az elvi álláspontját, miszerint a jogi szabályozás kialakításakor egyszerre kell biztosítani a megfigyelt személyek információs kárpótlását, önrendelkezési jogának érvényesülését, valamint a múlt feltárását és a közérdekű adatok megismeréséhez fűződő alkotmányos jog érvényesülését. Tehát egymással ellentétes, de egyaránt legitim érdekek között kell megtalálni az egyensúlyt. Az Országgyűlés erre tett kísérletet az *elmúlt rendszer titkosszolgálati tevékenységének feltárásáról és az Állambiztonsági Szolgálatok Történeti Levéltára létrehozásáról* szóló 2003. évi III. törvény megalkotásával. A Magyar Szocialista Párt továbbra is támogat minden olyan törekvést, ami hatékonyabban szolgálja az érintettek információs önrendelkezési jogának érvényesülését és egyúttal biztosítja Magyarország közelmúltjának megismerését, a közérdekű adatok nyilvánosságát. Elutasít azonban minden olyan törvénykezdeményezést, ami hatályos szabályozással megteremtett egyensúly megbontására irányul.

Üdvözlettel:

Mesterházy Attila