

EDITORIAL NOTE

Major events concerning national minorities continue to occur on a daily basis. Long lingering issues surface throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, often after decades of official denial and repression.

After reading Josef Kalvoda's article, one cannot help but wonder when ethnic discontent will finally upset the artificial equilibrium in Czechoslovakia imposed by the new regime after World War II. In contrast, David Crowe explains how concerns for the treatment of Hungarian minorities in adjacent countries has tempered Hungary's policies towards its own minorities, despite its formally sharing since the late 1940s with Czechoslovakia similar ideological goals with respect to attitudes towards cultural/ethnic pluralism. A generation earlier, fearing another kind of high-handedness from a strong Tsarist central government, always potentially insensitive to the aspirations of minorities, Hrushevsky, according to Thomas Prymak, argued forcefully for inviolable local autonomy as a constitutional safeguard. Unfortunately, there was no such protection for the Jewish minority in Latvia in the context of Stalin's invasion, occupation and annexation of the Baltic region, in particular in Latvia, as spelled out in tragic detail by Dov Levin.

With Norman Pereira's article, *Nationalities Papers* ventures into new territory, the relationship between regionalism and nationality questions. As Pereira suggests unambiguously, one of the characteristic of the anti-Bolsheviks operating on the Eastern front, (and hence one major reason for their failure,) was their almost total disregard for and ignorance of the ethnic composition and interests of the indigenous populations in Siberia. We hope, in subsequent issues, further to explore this relatively uncharted frontier.

As a further innovation, beginning with this issue, *Nationalities Papers* provides a glimpse into the world of frank discussion, presently unleashed by the spirit of *glasnost*, to be found in little known Soviet publications. Maté Hint's powerful critical assault on official Soviet language policy is a poignant sample of the many struggles now in progress for the revival and protection of the native languages of minority peoples in the USSR after decades of being subjected to nothing less than Russification in the guise of bilingualism. This theme, too, will be actively promoted in future issues of *Nationalities Papers*.

Another new category inaugurated in this issue is "Nationalities Update." Given the avalanche of new information about national minorities, the journal will, from time to time, provide its readers with the latest reports—raw material that has not yet been analyzed or interpreted—about

events whose urgency calls for rapid dissemination. In this issue the focus is on the developing crisis facing the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria.

As *Nationalities Papers* expands its scope, so does its editorial staff. It is a pleasure to welcome two new Regional Editors, Professor Takayuka Ito, from the Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, and Academician Andrus Pork, the Estonian Academy of Sciences. Joining the Editorial Board are Professors Edward Allworth, Columbia University, New York, and Tibor Frank, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. A most important addition to our ranks is Professor Anita K. Shelton, Eastern Illinois University, who has kindly consented to assume the crucial duties of Book Review Editor.

Reflecting, we hope, *Nationalities Papers'* growing acceptance as a major scholarly publication, we are proud to announce a three-year agreement with the W. Averell Harriman Institute for Advanced Study of the Soviet Union, Columbia University. Beginning in September 1989, *Nationalities Papers*, in conjunction with the Institute's "Nationalities and Siberian Studies Program," will publish annually a special issue of the journal on "The Soviet Nationalities." Also, with the cooperation of Columbia University Library, *Nationalities Papers* will be sent to over 250 major university and research libraries in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Finally, *Nationalities Papers* gratefully acknowledges a grant of \$350 from the Faculty Senate Committee on Research and Publication of the City College of the City University of New York for the enhancement of the reference library of the journal's editorial office.

In conclusion, due to a series of disruptions of communication ensuant on Professor Stephen Horak's death, and the transfer of the *Nationalities Papers* editorial office first to Canada, and then to New York, Professor William McCagg's article "Jews and Peasant in Interwar Hungary" appeared in *Nationalities Papers* (Vol. XV, no. 1) without a number of important corrections. The revised version of the article will appear in a forthcoming volume of the *Austrian History Yearbook*. We mutually regret the confusion that caused this situation.