

THE EXPULSION OF THE GERMAN POPULATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL LEGAL ORDER

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Plans for future treatment of the citizens of German descent, first mooted in London, seat of the Czechoslovak government-in-exile, and Moscow, centre of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, towards the end of the war and taken up in the Košice program (April 5, 1945) for a future government, became even more severe in the course of the election campaign once the war was over. President Beneš, who first refused to sign one of the decrees submitted by the government, and recommended exemptions from the measures about to be introduced as a collective punishment, failed to get his suggestion accepted, just as did several cabinet members representing non-communist parties and advocating a different approach with respect to those who had remained passive in the national confrontation. In the end, confiscation of property, deprivation of citizenship, and expulsion were imposed with regard to all German nationals.