

(b) *Second Czechoslovak Amendment to Article I, Para. 4* (C.P., Gen. Doc. 1, Q. 3)

“ Hungary cedes to Czechoslovakia the villages of Dunacsun, Horvathjarfalu, Oroszvar, Rajka, and Bezenye, along with their cadastral territory, the extent of which is indicated on the map attached to the present treaty (Annex 1).” (See report of Sub-Commission, C.P. H/P., Doc. 18.)

The area for which Czechoslovakia asked was some 54 square miles with a frontage on the Danube of 12 miles, and was required by the Czechoslovaks on strictly economic grounds—the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava, can expand only in this area, which is needed also for the construction of a new river port at Bratislava. The British and U.S.A. delegates on the Commission, while agreeing that Czechoslovakia had a strong case for the cession of this territory, were unwilling to discuss it in isolation from the later amendment (C.P., Gen. Doc. 1, Q. 5), providing for the transfer of the Magyar ethnic minority from Slovakia. The New Zealand delegation did not hold this view, as it felt that the one problem was economic, the other ethnical and political, and that it would lead to confusion if they were considered together. (India and Canada agreed with New Zealand in this matter, Australia and South Africa with the United Kingdom and U.S.A.)

The Sub-Commission discussed this problem at five meetings and (with Australia abstaining) found that Czechoslovakia had a good case for some extension of her river frontage south of the Danube in the region of Bratislava, but felt that the area asked for could be substantially reduced without serious prejudice to the interests of Czechoslovakia. Accordingly, the New Zealand representative proposed a new frontier which would give Czechoslovakia almost all the increased river frontage required, while reducing by half the area and the population to be ceded by Hungary. The proposal was accepted.

The other problem was that of the population of the area thus reduced. The issue here was not a very clear one, as the population concerned consisted in 1941 of nearly nine hundred each of Slavonic Croats and Hungarians and over two thousand Germans. The Germans had recently been expelled by Hungary and their place taken by Hungarians. The New Zealand representative proposed that the population of the ceded area be guaranteed full human rights in the event of cession to Czechoslovakia; the proposal was adopted and embodied in the final recommendation of the Sub-Commission.

The Sub-Commission's report was presented to the Commission on 1 October and, with slight adjustments to the proposed southern limit of the “ bridgehead ” to bring it into accordance with the village boundaries, was ratified by unanimous vote on 3 October.