Summary

Unlike the classical intelligence services in the democratic states the communist secret police had to, to a far greater extent, collect and gain information about the events and people in its own country since the communist regime had demanded a person as a whole, totally, in all spheres of his life, which meant in practice that every – even though quite apolitical – expression of freedom could endanger and endangered this total demand and represented a concrete threat for the communist regime. Apart from this it was the duty of the State Security to act as a substitute for the function played in democratic states by the independent mass media and various opinion polls, even though the outcome was meant solely for the state and party leadership.

One of the basic aids in the orientation and discerning of all interesting items of information from the point of view of the State Security and at the same time a method of work was the so called file agenda. It meant that information concerning the same persons, issues and facilities was gathered in one place – into one file – as the so called volumes and files.

The Bureau for the Documentation and Investigation of the Crimes of Communism presents in its work a review of the volumes and files which were processed at the close of the communist regime – in the year 1989 – by the units of the State Security Central which dealt with the so called internal intelligence (primarily called the "struggle against the internal enemy"). The internal intelligence was one of the three main spheres of activity of the secret police counter-intelligence units (apart from the "struggle against the external adversary" and the activity "for the protection of the economy") and represented preventive as well as repressive activity aimed against the domestic and exiled opposition and at the control of all the spheres of the public and private life where there was the threat of anti-totalitarian stand-points and activities (e. g. of the Churches, youth, science and culture).

The source for the preparation of the review of volumes and files were the registration protocols, i.e. the internal aids of evidence of the State Security, which included the basic data for keeping the files (e.g. the date when the file was introduced, the kind of file and record, in whose name or on what occasion it was introduced, who was in charge of keeping the records, how was the file terminated…). The framework information on the development of registration protocols with the central counter-intelligence bodies and on the function and characteristics of the individual items is provided in the introductory study.

The work is supplemented by a list of steps carried out by those members of the State Security who according to records of evidence managed and administered the volumes and files described.