

Abstract

This thesis deals with the relations between Czechoslovakia and Israel in 1967-1971. It is specifically concerned with anti-Zionist policies of the socialist regime, which reflected themselves not only in the anti-Israeli stance of Czechoslovakia, but also in the relations of state authorities towards Jewish minority, and bore antisemitic characteristics. Contrary to lasting rigorous refusal of antisemitism since 1940s/50s, Czechoslovakia manifested its hostility towards Israel on regular basis. Struggle against Zionism was one of the aims of the Czechoslovak ideological war against alleged or real adversaries. For the regime, Israel represented West, and West was full of so called centres of ideological diversion. One of such centres was also Radio Free Europe (RFE). Author of the thesis assumes that RFE not only reflected the ideological struggle concerning Jews and "Zionists," in Czechoslovakia, but also played a role of a counter-balancing force in the matter. By means of analysis of RFE situation reports, the thesis evaluates the extent of RFE counter-balance of the Czechoslovak anti-Zionist ideology. After theoretical introduction (chapter one), changes in the relations of Czechoslovakia towards Israel and local Jewish community in 1945-1967 are described. Second chapter also debates tension between anti-Zionism and antisemitism. Last chapter deals with the ideological struggle of socialist Czechoslovakia against Israel and RFE in 1967-1971, the analysis of situation reports RFE being its central part.