

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to introduce all changes, that occurred in the Presidential office since February 1948 until the death of Klement Gottwald. After the short introduction, which gives us insight into the so called the Foundation period of Communism and into the life of Klement Gottwald and his wife Marta, follows the opening chapter about the situation in the Presidential office after the February 1948. It introduces two great topics, which would be examined in the next chapters - staff question and organization of the office. The thesis is closed by the chapter about the role of the Prague castle and Gottwald himself in 1948-1953.

Books about this era describe mostly the general characteristics of the period and of Klement Gottwald himself. They are not paying attention to the Presidential office. Only one of the persecuted employees wrote a biography - Miroslav Jirásek. I used mostly the books of Karel Kaplan. The memoirs of Ladislav Novák (chancellor of Antonín Zápotocký, Antonín Novotný and Ludvík Svoboda) were very useful for the description of the situation after the death of Klement Gottwald.

Even though documents from a couple of archives were used, some questions were left without the answers. For example, the file of the action committee doesn't exist, so we couldn't describe its activities properly. In the National archive is a lot of materials from the Central committee of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia, but only a few of them told us something about the Presidential office. The life in the Presidential office described Ludmila Köhlerová, Gottwald's secretary, in her letter and during questioning of her. The file about the Action Castle is from the Archive of the law-enforcement agencies, where are also some information about the rehabilitation. One file about the rehabilitation is in the Archive of the Presidential Office as well, where are also for example organization rules or the personal files of the employees.

Keywords

Presidential office, Klement Gottwald, persecution, February 1948, the Foundation period of Communism, organization changes.