



Report

**on the Activities of the Open Society Archives
between December 2002 and November 2003**

Budapest
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I New Challenges

In 2001 OSA decided to search for new premises in order to find a new home which would accommodate its holdings, which by then had outgrown OSA's storage space, and which could adequately serve OSA's new public role, extending the target groups of its activities beyond the members of narrow professional scholarly communities to university students and junior scholars throughout the region, to teachers, and to the interested public at large.

In 2002 OSA's search for its new premises was crowned with success and the Archives signed the lease for a two-story, flat roofed Art Nouveau edifice, a listed historical building in the heart of Budapest, with CEU Rt. for an indefinite period. Year 2003 was spent saving and raising funds for the renovation and reconstruction of the building. OSA managed to save a substantial amount out of its own budget, which brought OSA's cash contribution towards the building costs to USD 0.66 million. As part of its fundraising campaign OSA submitted applications to various foundations in Europe and in the US, seeking contributions both towards construction costs and program extension. The Fritt Ord Institution granted USD 50,000 for processing and exhibition programs related to the freedom of speech, the Kresge Foundation encouraged OSA to re-apply to them with the same package after CEU had been fully accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (Philadelphia), and OSA hopes for a favorable reply to its application for USD 1 million from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad USAID program.

II Inside OSA

A Staff

In March 2003 Ms Anna Svenson from the Lund Regional Archives joined OSA as Chief Archivist. The position had been vacant for some time and Ms Svenson's activity finally and happily filled an important gap in OSA's professional operations.

In July 2003 Ms Vania Nedialkova relocated to Budapest from the New York Office, where she had been working as a Records Manager on the OSA payroll, and joined the OSA Records Management Program, where her responsibilities cover records management issues related to the Soros Foundations Network.

By November 2003 OSA's staff settled at 24 full time and 5 part time employees paid on a monthly basis and 8 employees paid on an hourly basis (including exhibition

attendants and administrative assistants). The 37 employees come from 10 countries.

2003 was the test year for engaging MA and Ph.D. students from the CEU and from other universities to work on processing and research related tasks. All together 13 students worked in OSA to the satisfaction of the entire staff.

B Equipment

In 2003 OSA bought a heavy-duty fast scanner (Fujitsu fi-4860C with automatic document feeder, duplex scanning, up to 125 images per minute), which, in line with OSA's preservation policy, will be the means of preserving OSA's most important materials in digitized format, as well as providing remote access to documents for researchers from outside Budapest. OSA also bought two high capacity servers, one for its Comintern database, and one for the Martus project, which was started in 2002. To help collect documents for the exhibitions OSA purchased its first digital camera in the summer of 2003.

By the end of November 2003 OSA's e-mail system had been upgraded from Groupwise 6 to Groupwise 6.5, for the proper use of which OSA's staff had to take part in Groupwise training sessions.

C Holdings

1 New acquisitions

Between December 2002 and November 2003 the number of donations made to OSA were close to – though not above – last year's record level. Textual donations include the materials of the International Science Foundation (ISF), a private US foundation, and documents relating to the travels of George Soros, but the bulk of the new acquisitions was on the audio-visual side. Photographs relating to the architecture of the 1970s were donated to OSA by the recently closed down Hungarian Public Construction Information Office. Three hundred photographs of contemporary Gulags and of memorials dedicated to Gulag victims were donated to OSA. Photographs about the Yezidis, a religious minority in today's Iraq, made by Eszter Spat during the war in Iraq, were also added to OSA's photographic collection in 2003. The Iraqi photographs complement OSA's own 600 hours of monitoring of Iraqi and Kurdish television broadcasting during the war. Major 2003 additions to OSA's film collection include Soviet educational films and the educational and training films of the studio of the Budapest Transportation Company.

This year's highlight is the Comintern archives' 20 million-entry database and one million-image collection, the results of eight years' efforts and large scale international cooperation. Special mention must be made of the continuation of last year's "Campaign Archive" project. This year OSA collected the e-mails of the Hungarian "Polgári Körök" (Civil Circles) and published them on its own web site. Below is a more detailed list of acquisitions

(a) Textual materials

- International Science Foundation
- Izbrannye peredachi radio Svoboda o samizdate (Selected broadcasting by Radio Liberty on Samizdat)
- Collection by Sergey Mirnyy of Bulgakov's Master and Margarita
- Board Meeting Minutes and travels of George Soros

(b) Library materials

- Book donation by László Varga related to the GDR and its history – catalogued
- Books of the Hungarian Soros Foundation
- Donations from the Department of Medieval Studies in the framework of the exhibition about "Uses and abuses of the Middle Ages: 19th-21st centuries" organized jointly with the Department of Medieval Studies – further donations expected in the coming years
- Soviet film posters from the Hungarian Film Institute

(c) Audio-visual materials

- Photographs of the Hungarian Public Construction Information Office
- 300 hours of Kurdish television monitoring
- 300 hours of Iraqi Television monitoring
- Photographs of the Yezidis, a religious minority in today's Iraq War, by Eszter Spat
- Soviet educational films for soldiers
- Photographs of contemporary Gulags
- Films of the Budapest Transportation Company
- Soviet documentary and fiction films

(d) Electronic documents

- E-mail messages of the Hungarian "Polgári Körök" (Civil Circles)
- Comintern Archives database and images

2 Processing

This year's processing focus, like last years, was on Human Rights and RFE/RL samizdat materials in the textual section. However, the growth of the audio-visual holdings led to a notable acceleration in processing in that area too. Fully processed are the following

(a) Textual materials

- Personal Papers of Béla Király, 65 archival boxes; 8 linear meters
- East European Research and Analysis Department, 507 archival boxes; 64 linear meters
- Hungarian Biographical Card Files (container list)
- Hungarian Subject Card Files (container list to archival boxes)
- Hungarian Monitoring (labeled)
- Biographical Files, 89 of 185 archival boxes; 11 linear meters
- Records of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, 105 archival boxes; 13 linear meters
- Collection of David Rohde relating to Srebrenica, 14 archival boxes; 1,75 linear meters
- Records of the Open Media Research Institute, 279 archival boxes ; 35 linear meters
- Information Items, finding aid to 4500 microfilmed anonymized interviews
- Personal Papers of Pál Schiffer, 33 archival boxes; 4 linear meters
- Personal Papers of András Hegedűs, 151 archival boxes; 19 linear meters
- Index on Censorship

(b) Library materials

- OMRI's Periodical Collection catalogued (117 titles), duplicates sorted out for discarding
- Preliminary list of OMRI's Regional Press collection prepared

- 1440 records of the Periodical Database proofread and checked against bibliographical sources

(c) Audio-visual materials

- A Non-Circulating Film Library created in OSA's Research Room, containing approximately 100 feature films and 100 documentaries relating to the history of the Cold War, Communism and Dictatorships. Further films to be added to the collection on a regular basis
- 200 films from the Balkan Archives of the IMI collection
- 100 video cassettes of Soviet and Russian television monitoring
- 120 films of the Soros Documentary Fund
- Database of 340 films of the wars in the former Yugoslavia updated
- Database of 943 video cassettes of the Bosnian television monitoring updated
- 50 hours of oral history, relating to the Soviet communism, processed
- Database of 500 hours of Hungarian amateur films updated
- Over 170 hours of propaganda and documentary films relating to the history of the Hungarian Workers' Militia processed
- Over 500 hours of Iraqi television monitoring processed

(d) Electronic documents

- Comintern Archives
- Hungarian "Polgári Körök" (Civil Circles)

D Automation and Online Services

All major activities in OSA, including archival processing and reference services, rely on computerized systems developed in-house . Over the past few years this has helped OSA prioritize processing jobs, improve overall quality and quickly disseminate information about new materials available for research.

The on-line Guide to OSA holdings www.osa.ceu.hu/guide combines various finding aids: ISAD(G) descriptions of fonds, ISAAR-compliant authority records, reference information papers, virtual exhibitions and publications.

At present more than 320 fonds, subfonds and series are available to the public, providing access down-to container list level, which at the moment presents about 6800 archival boxes, video cassettes and other storage units.

The most recent addition is the OSA Film Library www.osa.ceu.hu/guide/filmlibrary .

Work is under way to start making electronic samples available for preview and/or downloading from the web site. A pilot scanning project has been completed to work out and test the format requirements and procedures, and to introduce guidelines for long-term preservation of the document images produced in this way. A sample file is available at www.osa.ceu.hu/temp/preview.shtml

OSA Library at present provides researchers with access to a searchable catalogue of 642 book titles in 122 subject groups from 11 collections. The online Periodicals Database lists 48,580 issues of more than 6,000 periodicals from the region, dating from 1902 through 2003.

OSA puts special emphasis to its online presence. For the next year, besides improving access to electronic copies, we plan to introduce content management and to add advanced search functionality for the finding aids.

Currently, about 200 web sites have links to OSA, most of them from .edu and .org domains. During past year over 121,000 distinct visitors were registered, with average requests for over 1,600 pages a day.

After a test period OSA arranged a series of demonstrations of the Open Archives Initiative (OAI) concept for several CEU Departments and units. This led to the adoption of OAI by CEU as the principal repository of its digital texts (peer reviewed research articles, etc.)

E Research Related Activities

1 Reference Services

The most welcome and long-awaited change is the dramatic increase – as against the slight decrease of last year - in the number of on-site visits and requests, both on and off site. Very often the Research Room worked at full capacity and OSA had to hire additional help to cope with the exceptional photocopy load of 23,800 pages (compared to last year's 14,800 pages, which in percentage terms amounts to an increase of 61 per cent). The number of new researchers was about the same as last year (213 against last year's 214) but the number of visits and the length of time spent in the Research Room grew considerably. An average of 6.5 visitors spent an

average of 4.5 hours in the Research Room, which translates into a steady 68 per cent utilization rate of Research Room capacity. In 2003 28 per cent more (6,060 as against last year's 4,718) archival units were served..

The most often requested materials were

- the Records of the International Human Rights Law Institute Relating to the Conflict in the Former Yugoslavia.
- Records of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Research Institute:
 - Subfonds 40 Hungarian Unit
 - Subfonds 60 Romanian Unit
 - Subfonds 80 Soviet Red Archives
 - Subfonds 85 Samizdat Archives
 - OMRI
- Audio-visual tapes from the Film Library, microfilms and microfiches

This happy change in the researcher's number and utilization rate can be attributed to OSA's increased publicity, to more flexible grants programs, including OSA's internship programs run jointly with CEU's Legal Department, to the increase in the number of fonds accessible via the Internet, and to OSA's new web face.

2 Grants

In 2003 OSA continued its grant-giving activity in the same way as in 2002, with support for Human Rights issues and archival activities at the top of the list of priorities. The only major change was the increase in grants on topics related to OSA's current exhibitions or unprocessed holdings.

(a) Research Grants: Between December 2002 and November 2003 OSA received 29 applications from 12 countries. The striking decrease in the number of applications in 2003 came as a surprise and OSA will do its best to investigate the reasons for this. Finally 11 research grants were offered for grantees from six different countries, the same number as last year. The topics covered by these grants are published on OSA's web-site.

(b) Internships: OSA's joint internship program with the Human Rights Students' Initiative stream at CEU continued throughout the year and was extended to other departments. This year OSA welcomed 10 students from within CEU, three students from other Hungarian universities and two students from abroad, both from the US.

- (c) *Thematic Grants* were offered to 11 individuals and institutions. The list of topics, which range from the traditional electronic catalogue projects through RFE/RL related research to oral history interviews with Chechen intellectuals is available on OSA's web-site.
- (d) The *Support for Research in Recent History program* was closed on June 30, 2003. However, four grants which extend beyond this date were continued. Grants were given, among others, for the publication of a critical edition of President Benes' Memoirs, for interdisciplinary research into the relationship between the history of architectural stylistic arts and local and state government policies and for a multidisciplinary research project on the formation and evolution of marginal groups in Soviet society. The largest grant supported a research project gathering data and illustrative materials on the uses and abuses of the Middle Ages in post-'89 Central and Eastern Europe and a year long standing seminar on the peaceful use of the Soviet atom.

F Records Management

2003 was a very active and successful year for OSA's small Records Management team of three, who are responsible for handling all records management issues in OSA, CEU, OSI Budapest, OSI New York and the Soros Foundation Network.

In CEU the CEU RM site was launched and, as the Records Center is almost full, so OSA RM had to start destroying inactive financial records.

The OSA Records Management team started the RM Program for OSI Budapest by interviewing senior program people, cleaning up the storage area and collecting data for retention periods. At OSA's request OSI Budapest hired a temporary assistant to arrange the OSI Budapest Records Center.

In NY OSA provided extensive help with the closing down of certain US programs, including drafting protocols, policies and training the new records manager. There have not been major document transfers to Budapest, only additional ISF boxes came over to Budapest to be united with the already existing ISF Fonds. ISF records in OSA are being digitized, and with the permission of the owner, most of the paper files, almost 100 large boxes, can be destroyed. The project will be finished by February, 2004.

On the recommendation and with the actual help of Professor Rev, Director of OSA, an Electronic Records Committee was created and started working on electronic records issues. OSI NY's old web site was archived to CDs, and transferred to Budapest. OSA became responsible for archiving the US program records as well.

Within the Network:

- The Network Media Program moved to London and OSA assisted with the records transfer, and with setting up a new records structure.
- The Hungarian Foundation and OSA/CEU signed a preliminary agreement to transfer inactive files to OSA. The final contract is ready, and will come into effect when the complete finding aid has been produced.
- The Russian Foundation in Moscow is closing down. A task force was set up by OSI NY and OSA to oversee the RM project and all records-related issues. A project plan had been prepared, but its implementation was interrupted because all records were confiscated by the owner of the building OSI Russia was leasing.

III OSA Outreach and Inreach Projects

Although since its foundation OSA has always been very active on the international scene, its fundraising efforts in 2003 strained its intellectual resources considerably, and OSA was less effective than it had intended to be. However, it did carry on the projects it had initiated in 2002, such as the International Federation of Human Rights Archives, the Martus Project and the Parallel History Project, and in some cases it started a new phase: for example the Campaign Archive (Kampányarchiv) Project, which collected and preserved e-mails and cell phone text messages related to the Hungarian parliamentary elections was followed in 2003 by the Polgári Körök (Civil Circles) Project, which preserved e-mail messages circulated by the supporters of the current opposition party. Both projects use authentic materials to produce a snapshot of an important event within a certain time-span, which serves as a unique resource for the study of contemporary history.

In order to make itself and its results more visible OSA organized two press conferences, one for Hungarian media representatives and one in English, for the international press, at the end of November 2003.

OSA welcomed many distinguished visitors during the year. These visits substantially enhanced OSA's visibility and offered unique opportunities to exchange ideas with highly reputed politicians and scholars

A Archival Projects

- 1** The ***INCOMKA project*** was completed by the end of June 2003. The database of 20 million entries and 1 million scanned images of the International Comintern Archives can be freely researched on the standalone workstation set up in OSA's Research Room. In Central and Eastern Europe OSA is the single location where the archives of the Communist International are accessible.
- 2** The ***Polgári Körök (Civil Circles) Project*** collected and preserved the e-mail messages sent to and from the Democratic Center (an information hub of the previous Hungarian government) by the Civil Circles (that is small circles of friends and communities formed following the call of Mr. Orbán, Hungary's former Prime Minister). The collection is available on OSA's web-site.
- 3** The ***Hungarian National Archives*** (MOL) and OSA started a long-term cooperation project in 2003. Hungarian speaking archivists from OSA can take internship with MOL and the two institutions offer each other professional help and advice.
- 4** The ***Editorial Board Meeting of COMMA***, the official journal of the International Council on Archives was hosted by OSA in Budapest.
- 5** OSA organized a ***Records Management workshop*** for the West Balkans Foundations in November 2003. The workshop focused on launching archival projects in the region and preparing their records for future structural changes.
- 6** OSA continues its manifold ***cooperation with Memorial***, the leading Russian Human Rights organization.

B Educational and Research Projects

In 2003 OSA further strengthened its involvement with the educational activities of both the Central European University and other Hungarian universities, and made further efforts to open up its collection to the wider public by organizing guided tours of its exhibitions and film shows. An abbreviated list of activities follows:

- 1** OSA offered in the Fall Semester of Academic Year 2003/2004 a one-credit, 14 hours course to the Human Rights Program students of CEU/Legal Department titled '***Archives, Evidence, and Human Rights***', for which 14 students from 11 countries have eventually signed up.

- 2** *Students from the Film Academy* took a credit course at OSA.
- 3** *Human Rights Internship* was offered to Legal Studies MA and Ph.D. students to work on the processing of OSA's human-rights related collections under the supervision of a staff archivist.
- 4** *OSA internship calls for CEU students* from other departments attracted many applicants. OSA was in the fortunate position of being able to choose the ones with the right linguistic and educational background for the archival processing tasks.
- 5** OSA continued its *film series* for the public and also for student groups from other universities.

C Galeria Centralis

In 2003 OSA opened four new exhibitions, as against the usual six to seven exhibitions in previous years. 2003 started with the very popular Sex and Communism exhibition stretching over from 2002, and then four more exhibitions followed. In the break between two exhibitions the hall was used as the venue of several charity auctions. (Visitors' figures: in total 15,848 visits with a daily average of 53 visitors).

In line with its endeavors to make its exhibitions into complex events, OSA organized a concert to celebrate the opening of its March 5, 2003 exhibition on Stalin's death. The concert, with the participation of the Budafoki Dohnányi Ernő Symphony Orchestra with Leon Botstein, Music Director and leading conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra as guest conductor, was cancelled owing to the decision of the members of the Board in charge of the Vigado concert hall, so the rarities of classical music composed to adulate Stalin by Prokofiev (Zdravitsa), Khatchaturian (Poem of Stalin) and one of Shostakovich's greatest pieces, his Symphony No 10, written right after Stalin's death, were not performed. However, the banned concert attracted the lively interest of the media – even the BBC asked for an interview with OSA.

- 1** *"05.03.1953."* (March 5, 2003 – May 11, 2003): the exhibition focused on Stalin's death, the mourning ceremony, the funeral and the fate of Stalin's remnants afterwards. The aim was to present and analyze the effect of the vanishing of Stalin's figure on the public, and also the problems that his decease raised for the regime and his successors.
- 2** *Uses and Abuses of the Middle Ages after 1989* (July 1 – July 14); together with CEU's Department of Medieval Studies and CEU's Summer University.

- 3 *Jose Guadalupe Posada*** (July 11, 2003 – August 17, 2003): presented 100 engravings by the Mexican artist.
- 4 *NDK–GDR–DDR*** (September 12, 2003 – November 30, 2003): The exhibition was designed to present objects of material culture – mass produced, everyday items typical of the East German production of the time, like household plastics, radio electronics etc. –, representing the period from the 1950's through the 1970's in the former GDR.

D Publications and Conferences

Earlier grants offered to researchers by OSA resulted in a number of publications – mostly by the CEU Press. Among others Mr. Béla Szandelszky published his collection of essays and twin photos taken on the locations of the Balkan war at the time of the war and 1000 days later. Mr. Anatoly Vershik published the “Summa” collection, a journal illegally circulated in the 70's in St Petersburg and Moscow by S. and N. Maslov, R. Pimenov and others. The collection fully documents the history of the liberal intelligentsia in the Soviet Union. OSA's largest 2001/2002 grant supported a year-long standing seminar on Balkan history textbooks. The results of the research project were published by the CEU Press at the end of 2003 in *Ideologies and National Identities (The case of Twentieth-Century Southeastern Europe)* edited by John Lampe and Mark Mazower.

In 2003 the staff of OSA was very active in the professional field. They attended 20 conferences (a 46 per cent rise over last year's figure) in 19 different locations. This rise called for administrative backup, and two new documents had to be introduced: the Conference Attendance Form and the Travel Report Manual. 65 per cent of the visits were fully or partly covered by OSA, the rest were attended at the invitation of the organizers and fully covered by them. A more detailed list of conferences attended follows:

- February 19–21: The International Committee of the Red Cross: The Missing – The Right to know, I. Székely participated in drafting the declaration of the international community, and as a plenary speaker raised his voice for the informational rights of victims and their family members, Geneva (Iván Székely, Counsellor)
- February 26 – March 6: Eight lectures in Mexico City, Durango, Gomez Palacio and Culiacan, for state and federal public officials, state and federal MPs, the independent federal information commissioners, state information commissioners, university students, non-governmental organizations and the press on various

aspects of access to public information, and on the Hungarian and international experience. Meetings with several federal and state leaders and radio and press interviews, Mexico (Ivan Székely, Counsellor)

- April 9–11: Workshop on “Long-term Preservation of Databases”, Electronic Resource Preservation and Access Network (ERPANET), Bern (Sergey Glushakov, IT Manager)
- March 10–11: Site visit to the Humanitarian Law Center in Serbia, as a step towards establishing their documentation and research center (Branislav Kovacevic, Records Assistant)
- April 23–24: “Secure Communications for Civil Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus”, workshop, organized by OSI Information Program; I Székely gave a lecture on the Martus system, presented OSA’s proposal for a policy, and held discussions with civil organizations, on using Martus (I. Székely, Counsellor)
- May 10–15: ICO/SIO yearly meeting of the Section of International Organizations, at the United Nations in Geneva and Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland (Anna Svenson, Chief Archivist)
- May 15–22: Contact and study visit to Holland:
 - International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam
 - Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, Amsterdam
 - Netherlands Institute of Human Rights, Univ. of Utrecht
 - ICTY, The Hague
 - ICC, The Hague (Csaba Szilágyi, Human Rights Archivist)
- May 21–25: ICA meeting in cooperation with the Polish National Archives, preparatory conference for the world conference in Vienna in 2004, Elblag, Poland, (Anna Svenson, Chief Archivist)
- May 25–28: Transparency Task Force of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, and the international anti-corruption conference of Transparency International, Seoul (Ivan Székely, Counsellor)
- August 13–15: Yearly meeting of the Association of Hungarian Archivists, Szolnok, Hungary (Katalin Dobo, Supervisory Librarian, Anna Svenson, Chief Archivist)
- September 7–10: ICA/SUV – Section of University and Research Institute Archives, Warsaw, Poland, on Archives and Changing Societies (Pavol Salamon, Senior Supervisory Archivist)

- September 26: The expert meeting on the Ottoman archives project, organized by the Cultural Directorate of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (Ivan Székely, Counsellor)
- October 18–22: ARMA Annual Conference 2004 and EXPO, Boston, USA. ARMA International Day: Presentation on RM Issues in the former communist countries and panelist (Gabriella Ivács, Supervisory Records Manager)
-
- October 19–25: XXXVII CITRA (Round Table Conference of ICA), Cape Town, South Africa, on Archives and Human Rights (Anna Svenson, Chief Archivist)
- November 10–11: Open Society Foundation, Bratislava, Slovakia, site visit (Vania Nedialkova, Records Coordinator, and Pavol Salamon, Senior Supervisory Archivist)
- November 17–19: Workshop on Trusted Digital Repositories for Cultural Heritage (organized by ERPANET), Rome, Italy (Branislav Kovacevic, Records Assistant. Participated in the working group discussions)
- November 20–23: 35th National Convention of AAASS (American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies), Toronto (Katalin Dobo, Supervisory Librarian)
- November 24: Expert meeting on access to archives, organized by the Cultural Directorate of the Council of Europe. Lecture with the title "Implementation of Recommendation (2000) 13: A European-wide survey on access to archives", Strasbourg (I. Székely, Counsellor)
- December 4–9: Follow-up meetings on Archives and Human Rights, Unesco and ICA office, Paris, France (Anna Svenson, Chief Archivist).
- Dec 9–10: Expert workshop "The Policy Implications of CCTV", organized by an EU research consortium, Berlin (Ivan Székely, Counsellor)

E. Personal and Media Contacts

1. Visits to OSA

The visit in early spring of His Excellency Ambassador Rudolf Muller, Ambassador of Switzerland, His Excellency Ambassador Jan Lundvik, Former Swedish Ambassador in Budapest, and His Excellency Ambassador Bengt Lundborg, Present Swedish Ambassador in Budapest was followed by the arrival of distinguished representatives of the Hoover Institution in May. In the summer His Excellency Ambassador José

Louis Martínez H., Ambassador of Mexico visited the Archives, then Ms. Anne Applebaum, Editor of The Washington Post. Mr. Thomas Bodström, the Swedish Minister of Justice visited OSA and gave a public lecture at CEU in October 2003. On this occasion Dr. Attila Péterfalvi, data protection ombudsman, also paid a visit to OSA. In December 2003 the Archives had the honor to welcome Dr György Habsburg on its premises.

2. Press Conference

The highlights of the press conference organized on November 27 and 28, 2003 were the announcement of the full accessibility of the papers of Mr. Béla Király, commander of the National Guard in the 1956 revolution, the setting up of the Martus and Comintern servers and the arrival of the 6,000 hours of footage on genocide from the International Monitor Institute. The event received exceptionally warm press coverage, several articles, radio and television announcements, reports and interviews followed, among others one with BBC Radio from London.

IV Past and Future

In late June, 2003 on the invitation of the Central European University Dr Károly Kecskeméti, former General Secretary of the International Council on Archives, arrived in Budapest with a mission to audit OSA's professional operational structure and send his report and recommendations to CEU. The executive summary of his findings is below:

Report on the appraisal mission carried out by Dr. Károly Kecskeméti in the Open Society Archives, from June 29 to July 10, 2003.

Executive summary

1. OSA is a complex international institution of memory, combining archival, research and cultural programs. The unique complexity of the institution is obvious. But in spite of the variety of the functions performed, OSA constitutes an organic entity. All program components:

- custody of and access to the holdings,
- records management for the Soros network,
- research programs and projects,
- outreach
- support to international archival cooperation and development

are intimately interrelated. Various measures are recommended in the report to highlight interrelations between the custodial and outreach functions.

2 Thanks to the autonomy OSA enjoys within CEU, all these components are governed by a coherent policy and the wide range of operations are integrated in a comprehensive and efficiently managed program.

The Goldberger building would give more visibility to the special role played by OSA within CEU, as a custodial, research and cultural center.

3. The mission entrusted to OSA by the Policy Statement of the OSI Board, dated June 25 1999, to serve as the central repository of the Soros network, should be confirmed so as to secure the transfer of the "historical archives" of national OSIs and Foundations for permanent preservation.

4. A ca. 30% decrease in budget and 25% decrease in personnel, since 1998, has disturbed the processing work and led to the accumulation of a backlog of unprocessed accruals. The hiring of additional permanent and/or temporary manpower may become imperative. A thorough planning and monitoring practice is also needed to ensure a steady pace of the processing work and to minimize the inconveniences of rush projects.

5. At the present stage, high priority ought to be given to the promotion of the scholarly use of the OSA holdings (Free Europe, Komintern, Helsinki, Yugoslav material, and Soros network) in the reading room and on the web. A more flexible two-stage access practice, diversified finding aids and more intense outreach efforts towards the academic and archival communities of the Region would be instrumental in achieving this end.

6. The report contains several technical suggestions with respect to records management, the exhibition program, the library and the web site. These suggestions were discussed in detail with the professionals in charge of the services concerned.

7. Since its inception, OSA has been giving professional and financial support to the modernization and democratization of archives of the Region. The process of European integration and economic recovery in most countries of the Region requires a revision of the policy pursued until recently. In future years, aid-giving could be limited to exceptional occurrences while cooperative links and participation in regional and sub-regional joint ventures are to be intensified.

8. Should it correspond to ascertained regional needs, OSA could resume the organization of SUN courses, in partnership with co-sponsors and expand its

internship program. The feasibility of organizing, at regular intervals, courses for continued professional training should be explored.

9. Recommendation Rec(2001)15 of Council of Europe on history teaching in twenty-first-century Europe could serve as the basic reference text of OSA's public relations policy. The text is attached to the report as its Annex No. 3.

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