

## FUNCTION OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION IN THE SPHERE OF CARTOGRAPHY ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF SLOVAK ECONOMY FROM A CENTRAL TO A MARKET MANAGED ONE

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### Abstract

Legislative activity range of the state administration in a period of the central managed state economy, the most important laws in the cartographic sphere, the main cartographic works which characterise this period, the impact of social and economical changes after 1989 on the development of the Slovak cartography and the new legislative activity range of the state administration in this field.

### 1 Legislative activity range of the state administration in the period of the central managed economy

The importance of cartography but mainly of cartographic works for the society is incontrovertible, nevertheless of the social system. It is depended on a reached degree of development as for the relevant country what place in social activities hierarchy is adjudged to cartography.

Arising socialist system in previous Czechoslovakia declared an explicit interest and a necessity to solve activities in the sphere of surveying and mapping from its beginning by legislating the Surveying Law of 1948. In accordance to that law the foundation, maintenance and innovation of public map works, their publication and the creation of derivative maps were given to the competence of Ministry of Finance and further, by the law amendmend of 1949, by the Ministry of Technic competence. The rights of authorized civil engineers to perform some operations of public surveying and mapping have been intouched.

The second important law assigned the social cartographic range was the Publishing Law of 1949. It defined publishing and propagation principles for books, sheet music and nonperiodical publications - in this range for cartographic works too. According to this law the edition and propagation of all nonperiodic publications was regulated by the previous Ministry of Information and Cultural Activities.

From the standpoint of further cartographic development the constitution of a separate department of Geodesy and Cartography in 1954 had a fundamental importance. The whole publishing activity and the creation of public map works which were financed from the state budget as well as cartographic works for schools and general public were concentrated into this department. Nevertheless the existence of other publishing and cartographic organisations was not excended. So the function of the state administration for cartography passed into activity of the special central authority and its regional organs. Changing conditions of the central managed economy caused a requirement of 1948 law amendmend. It was realised by publishing the Law about Geodesy and Cartography in 1971. The law of 1971 coordinates consistently the creation and publication of cartographic works by editorial items so that it qualifies them by a special agreement. On the other side the law gives a possibility to these editorships to create also state map works, copy them and use them as a basis for creation of the new cartographic works under the delivered agreement.

It can be presumed that problems of copyright were not relevant in cartography from the beginning, because the Author's law of 1953 didn't relate to the cartographic works in fact. The problem grew up over the further decade and a new cartographic law of 1965 engaged particularly the cartographic works too. By this law the editor of cartographic works is justified to administrate authors' rights..

The Ministry of Culture of the former Slovak Socialist Republic published in 1964 a new edict. This edict appointed duty for each publisher of nonperiodical publication - then of cartographic work too - to deliver so called free-copy of each published work free of charge to representative national libraries and cultural organisations for everlasting documentation. Later the list of recipients defined by law increased specially with governmental and political organisations.

The fundamental framework of 5 generally binding legal rules (3 laws and 2 edicts) covers the edict of 1973 about performing geodetical and cartographical activities and about cartographic works. This edict worked out in details the statute about geodesy and cartography of 1971, e.g. also the using procedures of the state map work in according with the creation and publication of a new cartographic work. That part of the edict which was related to cartographic works was amended in 1985.

## 2 The most important cartographic works of the centralized economy period

Concentration of geodetic and cartographic services in 1954 made positive, mainly capacity and financial presumptions for realisation of more representative national projects which are the most important results of centralized map and atlas creation:

- a set of military topographical maps in scales 1:10 000, 1:25 000, 1:50 000, 1:100 000, 1:200 000, 1:500 000 and 1:1 mil. arised in cooperation between the military topographical service and the civilian geodetic and cartographic service in the period 1955-1970,

- a set of ground maps (of topographical character) in the same scale range from 1:10 000 to 1:1 mil. created in the years 1970-1994, merely for civil uses,

- a set of reference maps, wall-maps and atlases, abroad known under the name "Unified system of educational cartographic aids", designed for the education of geography and history on primary and secondary schools,

- the complex national atlas published in 1980 under the name "Atlas of the Slovak Socialist Republic" with maps in scale 1:500 000, which gained more international awards,

- in detail elaborated and 1990 published "Ethnographic Atlas of the Slovak Republic" in scales and conception following the National Atlas from 1980. This atlas work had also a significant international response.

All the mentioned projects were charged a lot as for the finance and so the guarantee of the state budget was very effective at determination of the maps and atlases sale prices. The sale price covered only a smaller part of primecosts. Disadvantage of the former map creation system was in the government accepted direction of limited propagation of some representative national important map works. The necessity of publishing and permanent maintenance of alternative map collections suitable for application in general public not only considerably took away the production capacity but in the end it wasn't any contribution to the Slovak cartography development.

### **3 Period of the economic transformation from a central to a market managed one in the sphere of cartography**

The social and economical changes in and after 1989 had an adequate impact on cartography too. The liberalization of market and even of prices in connexion with the two-fold Slovak currency devaluation caused a three-fourfold prices increase of cartographical products. Reorganisation of the department of geodesy and cartography in 1991 preceded the privatisation of the state cartographic enterprises. Activities coming into commercial sphere and activities which would be henceforth financed from the state budget were explicitly dissected.

In a short period of two years some private cartographic firms appeared, a few of them with abroad capital investment. Assortment of the products made in Slovakia completed very quickly with the maps, atlases and globes by the prestigious abroad editors and this fact yielded an expecting competition even at the small Slovak market.

The Slovak legislation reacted on arisen conditions with publishing the new law about free copies of nonperiodical publications in 1993 (amendment of the Publishing law of 1949). By this law the publishing of nonperiodical publications is absolutely free and the number of free copies recipients is reduced and taxatively defined. Amendment of the author's law is prepared and it ought to follow the European standard. A new law about geodesy and cartography is ready for discussion in the Parliament and it will engage in the problems of cartography in detail. The law will define explicitly activities of the state administration in the sphere of cartography which will be also reduced a lot as to compare it with the law of 1971. The new law will be concentrated on state map works creation, innovation and publishing, a permanent documentation and archivation of them, on information and data service from the state documentation funds and last not least on a systematical standardization of geographical objects names. It is related with the determination of obligatory geodetical and representation systems for selected kinds of cartographic and geodetic activities and with the arrangement of obligatory localization standards for creation of GIS on national and regional level. In this range there is also the propagation of published cartographical works unlimited.

### **4 Conclusion**

Nevertheless the cartography belongs to the social and economical value superstructure and its products are not the subject of everyday consumption, after 5 years it can be seen the graduate normalization of the relationships in this field with the new-market conditions respect. The Slovak cartography wasn't collapsed. This reality can be attributed obviously to the fact that it was built till 1989 on a solid basis which stood all of the existing economical and social shocks.