

## Summary

### ***Jindřich Nermut' (1917–1990). The Life and Fate of a farmer, Member of Parliament, post-coup exile and 'Australian'***

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This study describes two key stages in the life of Czech politician, Jindřich Nermut' (1917–1990). The first section describes his political activities during the era of the so-called Third Czechoslovak Republic (1945–1948), when he held the role of Member of Parliament for the Czechoslovak People's Party (ČSL). As a farmer he defended the interests of Czech agricultural workers and was one of the most prominent critics of the Communist Party Czechoslovakia (KSČ). As he found himself targeted by the Communist secret services in 1947 when plans were made for his prosecution, immediately after the Communist coup in February 1948 and after the communists had taken over all power in the country he decided to go into exile. He spent the initial years following his successful escape abroad (1948–1949) in West Germany and Luxembourg, and he involved in ČSL's activities in exile (its London congress). He sailed with his whole family to Australia at the end of 1949. The second part of this study looks at Nermut's activities in Australia, specifically in Tasmania (1950–1990). After opting out of two-year work duties, he settled here and began to farm. This section includes brief information on Czechoslovak expatriates in Tasmania in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The main part of the text looks at Nermut's activities in exile and expatriate associations in Tasmania. It also looks at the Czechoslovak intelligence services' persistent interest in him, which reached a peak in 1959. A surveillance file with the codename 'The Australian' was opened on him at this time. The objective of the measures undertaken (a number of agents were deployed to his family in Czechoslovakia and his correspondence was also monitored) was to force Nermut' to return to Czechoslovakia where he was to be used as part of counter-propaganda measures. In the end, the surveillance was suspended and Nermut' was able to successfully continue in his exile activities (in 1985 he was involved in restoring the expatriate association). After the Velvet Revolution, he visited Czechoslovakia and planned to return to his home country and re-involve himself in politics here, but was prevented from doing so by his premature death (1990).

*Translated by Moderní dějiny*