



To
The Members of the Institute Council
Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes
Siwecova 2
130 00 Praha 3
Czech Republic

OPEN LETTER

Göteborg, 15 August 2013

Dear Members of the Institute Council,

On 23 April 2013 we sent an open request to the newly appointed Director of the Institute, Ms Pavla Foglová, to explain the background of a dubious loan of 20 million CZK provided in 1996 by her private company to the political party ODS. This loan was linked to money laundering in the Czech media. On 25 April 2013 we sent a letter to you in which we expressed our concern about the situation at the Institute and asked you to open a regular public procurement for the position of the Director of the Institute as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, we have not received a response from the Institute until this day.

Director Foglová has proceeded to appoint a new scientific council of the Institute which, among its 15 members, counts 5 former members of the Communist party of Czechoslovakia. This scientific council is now about to carry out an evaluation of the work of individual institute employees, which is wholly unacceptable. An analogous situation, in which former members of the NSDAP or another Nazi party would be asked to evaluate the work of an institution whose mission it is to reveal and document the crimes of National socialism, would be unthinkable.

We hold the Institute in high esteem for its pivotal role in the foundation of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience in 2011 and for its important contribution to coming to terms with the crimes of Communism, which has been work of truly European dimensions. We are concerned that not only the international standing but even the purpose of existence of the Institute are now in jeopardy.

Therefore, in view of the founding documents of the Platform which the Institute signed in 2011, we would like to recommend that at your next session in September 2013, you dismiss Director Foglová and repeal the appointment of the former Communists from the scientific council of the Institute, and that you open a transparent, international public procurement procedure for a lawful Director of the Institute immediately.

Yours truly,

Göran Lindblad

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Göran Lindblad

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