

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ján Čarnogurský

Ján Čarnogurský was born on January 1, 1944 in Bratislava. He graduated with a degree in law from Charles University in Prague in 1969 and earned the doctorate in law from Comenius University in Bratislava in 1971. During 1970-1981 he worked as an attorney in Bratislava and specialized in defending religious activists and political dissidents. In 1981 Čarnogurský was disbarred for the defence of a defendant in political trial. He then worked as a driver, and later as a lawyer for a company. In 1987 he lost his job and was unemployed until the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989. After he was disbarred, Čarnogurský actively opposed the communist government of Czechoslovakia and continued to provide legal advice to oppositional religious and political activists. In 1988 he started to publish the underground/samizdat newspaper Bratislavské listy (Bratislava Letters).

In August of 1989 Čarnogurský was arrested and accused of subversion because of his publication of Bratislavské listy and also because he was one of the organizers of a memorial service in honour of people shot in Bratislava, and elsewhere in Slovakia, in 1968 by invading Warsaw Pact forces.

In November of 1989 he was released from prison as a result of the "Velvet Revolution" and immediately became a member of the oppositional delegation, which negotiated the surrender of power by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. He was then appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia and was responsible for the drafting of laws which established the democratic political system of that country. Until the election of Vaclav Havel as president of the Republic in late December, 1989, Čarnogurský co-managed the Ministry of the Interior.

Dr.Čarnogurský initiated the establishment of the Christian Democratic Movement in Slovakia and in February of 1990 was elected its Chairman at the founding convention in Nitra. He hold that position re-elected as Chairman until November 2000.

After the parliamentary elections in June of 1990 Čarnogurský became the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic and, from April of 1991 until the new parliamentary elections in June of 1992, he was the Prime Minister. Since June of 1992 he has been Member of the Slovak Parliament. He was elected Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (now OSCE) in July, 1993 and was confirmed in this office in July of 1994. In 1997 he was elected Vice-Chairman of the European Union of Christian Democracy.

After the elections of 1998 Čarnogurský was appointed Minister of Justice of the Slovak Republic, a cabinet position which he hold till October 2002.

Now he is serving as attorney in law in Bratislava. Mr. Čarnogurský is holder of state awards of Poland, Armenia and Russia.