

**Declaration of the Nobility to President Benes, 1938**  
**Translated by Eagle Glassheim (Princeton University)**

From: <http://www.princeton.edu/~eglasshe/CHC/benes1938.htm>

See also: <http://www.czechslovakhhistory.org/>

**Declaration of members of the historic nobility, delivered 17 September 1938 to  
President Edvard Benes**

Source: Archiv Kancelare Prezidenta Republiky (AKPR) D3038/40.

Copy also reprinted in Frantisek Schwarzenberg. Cesky slechtic Frantisek Schwarzenberg. Praha: Rozmluvy, 1990. (Page 253)

Mr. President,

In these difficult days all estates and classes of our nation (narod) unanimously express their will to prevent the violation of the historic borders of our state. In the same spirit, a number of historic families of our homeland (vlast) would like to present to you similar sentiments. Loyalty to the Bohemian (cesky) state, which our ancestors helped to build and to maintain for a thousand years, is for us so obvious an obligation that we hesitate to even express it explicitly. We consider it our duty to preserve the legacy of our fathers. The Lands of the Bohemian Crown have been unified for so long, have survived so many storms, that we trust they will make it through the present period of unrest and violence.

Our desire, that the historic borders of the Bohemian Crown remain unviolated, stems too from concern over the future of our descendants as well as from a sense of responsibility for the freedom and well-being of Bohemian Germans. Our ancestors always pursued friendly relations between the two nations of Bohemia, and we too desire that our German-speaking compatriots might share our love for an undivided homeland. We trust that they will. Above all, we hope that Christian fundamentals will preserve order and culture in our land.

Expressing faith in a better future, we assure you that we are conscious of our inherited obligations to our homeland and state, a state which was the home of our ancestors and whose historic rights we now and have always desired to defend.

Signed by Karel Schwarzenberg, Jan Lobkowicz, Zdenek Radislav Kinsky, Frantisek Kinsky, Zdenek Kolowrat, Rudolf Czernin, Leopold Sternberg, W. Colloredo-Mannsfeld, Karel Parish, Jindrich Dobrzensky, Hugo Strachwitz, and Karel Belcredi.

Translated from the Czech by Eagle Glassheim.