

Birkenau (B-II-a), I could continue to keep up my statistics by speaking to the "Zugangs", who knew from where their transports came, and how many persons were in their transport before "selection" for the gas chambers. I also kept up contacts with the "Rollwagen kommando" (after I became Blockschreiber in B-II-a), and I could double-check my figures.

5. As far as my legal name is concerned, my first free act on leaving the Auschwitz complex was to de-germanize my name and I wrote the Report as Rudolf Vrba. Should you have published the Report under any other name, I refuse to accept the author's honorarium which you mentioned in your letter of 24 November 1989.

I find it improper that instead of using my legal name (Vrba) you refer to me by a formerly used German name (Walter Rosenberg), which I (for obvious reasons) did not use after my escape from Auschwitz. All of my papers published after 7 April 1944 (including more than 50 scientific papers) until this day were published under my legal name Vrba. This oversight on your part plays into the hands of those with the mentality of the Nazi press (which always referred to the USSR-minister Litvinov only as Finkelstein), and also of the Communist "judges" during the purges (who referred to Zinovev as Apfelstein and Slansky as Salzer). All this is grist for the mill of the Neonazis and also some other demagogues. It was not very kind of you not to let me see your draft before publication and I trust that you understand my reflections.

6. From reading the Vrba-Wetzler Report, obviously my statements therein start with paragraph 2 of the Report - description of Auschwitz I. I was in Auschwitz I from 30 June 1942 (as 44070) until 15 January 1943 (when "Aufräumungskommando" was transferred to Birkenau). Thus, I knew well the geographical situation and habits of "order" in Auschwitz I (whereas Wetzler was there only for 1 day and was immediately transferred to Birkenau). It would be, of course, difficult to decide now which part of the Report stems from Wetzler and which from me, and it is right to consider it as a result of the efforts of both of us - to the best of our knowledge and abilities.
7. As for the question 4 in your letter of 24 November 1989: Yes, it is true that I served (as Rudolf Vrba) as a soldier of the Czechoslovak Army in the Partyzan Unit of Captain Milan Uher ("Hero of the Slovak National Uprising" in memoriam) from 16 September 1944 until the end of the War. I was awarded the Czechoslovak Medal for Bravery, Order of Slovak National Insurrection (Class 2) and Medal of Honour of Czechoslovak Partyzan. Wetzler joined me there in February, 1945 and was with us until March, 1945, when he fell again into the hands of Germans. He was liberated in March, 1945 by a surprise artillery shelling of the prison by the advancing Russians.