

Mach, Alexander

(1902--?), Slovak leader who headed the fascist Hlinka Guard and held various positions in the Slovak government; Mach was one of the main supporters of the Deportation of Slovak Jewry.

In the summer of 1940 Mach became Minister of Internal Affairs in the Slovak government, which was a satellite of Nazi Germany from 1939--1945. In July, Mach, Slovak President Jozef Tiso, and Prime Minister Vojtech Tuka met with Adolf Hitler to set up a Nazi regime in Slovakia. For the rest of the war, Mach and Tuka led a bloc in the government that was even more extreme than the Tiso bloc.

In September 1941 Mach and Tuka called for the deportation of 10,000 Jews from Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, to eastern Slovakia. The deportations began in March 1942 and were carried out by Mach's ministry. Almost 58,000 Jews were deported over the next seven months. In February 1943 Mach tried to restart the deportations. However, he was unsuccessful due to the efforts of the Jewish working group and because the Germans were not interested in renewing the deportations at that point.

Mach stayed in his ministerial position until the Slovak national uprising. After the war, he was sentenced to 30 years in prison.