

# **Will Polish representatives come to Slovakia to commemorate the memory of Soviet warriors?**

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On October 6, Slovakia will mark the 75th anniversary of the Carpathian-Duklin operation of World War II.

This offensive operation of the Soviet troops against Germany was carried out as part of the East Carpathian operation (September 8 – October 28, 1944) in order to assist the Slovak uprising. During the operation on October 6, the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps, having mastered the Duklins Pass together with the Soviet troops, entered their native land, freeing the village of Vyshny Komarnik (now Svidnik district). Until the end of October, Soviet and Czechoslovak troops fought heavy, bloody battles against the Germans, stubbornly defending themselves in the mountains. They achieved serious success, but could not break through to the rebels. On October 28, the offensive ceased. Both fronts and the 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps went on the defensive.

The Slovak side attaches great importance to this event. This year, events will be attended by senior leadership of the country's Ministry of Defense. It is worth noting that Slovakia honors the memory of soldiers who died during the liberation of the country, regardless of their nationality.

Traditionally, representatives of the military-diplomatic corps of NATO countries accredited in the country are invited to such events.

Representatives of Poland also regularly participated in them until 2017. The spokesman for the defense minister Antoni

Macierewicz, who was present at the ceremony, gave an interview to journalists, after which representatives of the military department were criticized in connection with the Law on the ban on the propaganda of communism that entered into force in the country.

The journalists did not take into account the fact that the law does not apply in other countries, as well as the fact that more than nine thousand Ukrainian soldiers (who fought as part of the 2 Ukrainian Front) were buried in the cemetery in Swidnik, where the events were held.

Nevertheless, the scandal that happened forced the Polish delegation to miss the celebrations last year.

This year, given the scale of the planned event, it is unlikely to miss. And the absence of Polish representatives for the second time in a row will probably be misinterpreted and is unlikely to improve relations with Slovakia within the framework of NATO, the Visegrad Group or the Bucharest Nine.

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