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## TECTONIC ROTATION OF FLYSCH NAPPES IN THE POLISH OUTER CARPATHIANS

(3 Figs.)

### *Rotacja tektoniczna płaszczowin fliszowych Polskich Karpat Zewnętrznych*

(3 fig.)

**Abstract:** Clockwise rotation in the pile of nappes forming the Outer Flysch Belt of the Western Carpathians is evidenced by the relation of the nappes to the margin of the Foreland Platform, by the relation of the nappes to the northern front of the Outer Flysch Belt, and by rotation of segments of the Outer Flysch Belt contained between fault zones with sinistral strike-slip displacement. Seven major fault zones with sinistral strike-slip displacement are identified in the Polish Outer Carpathians.

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

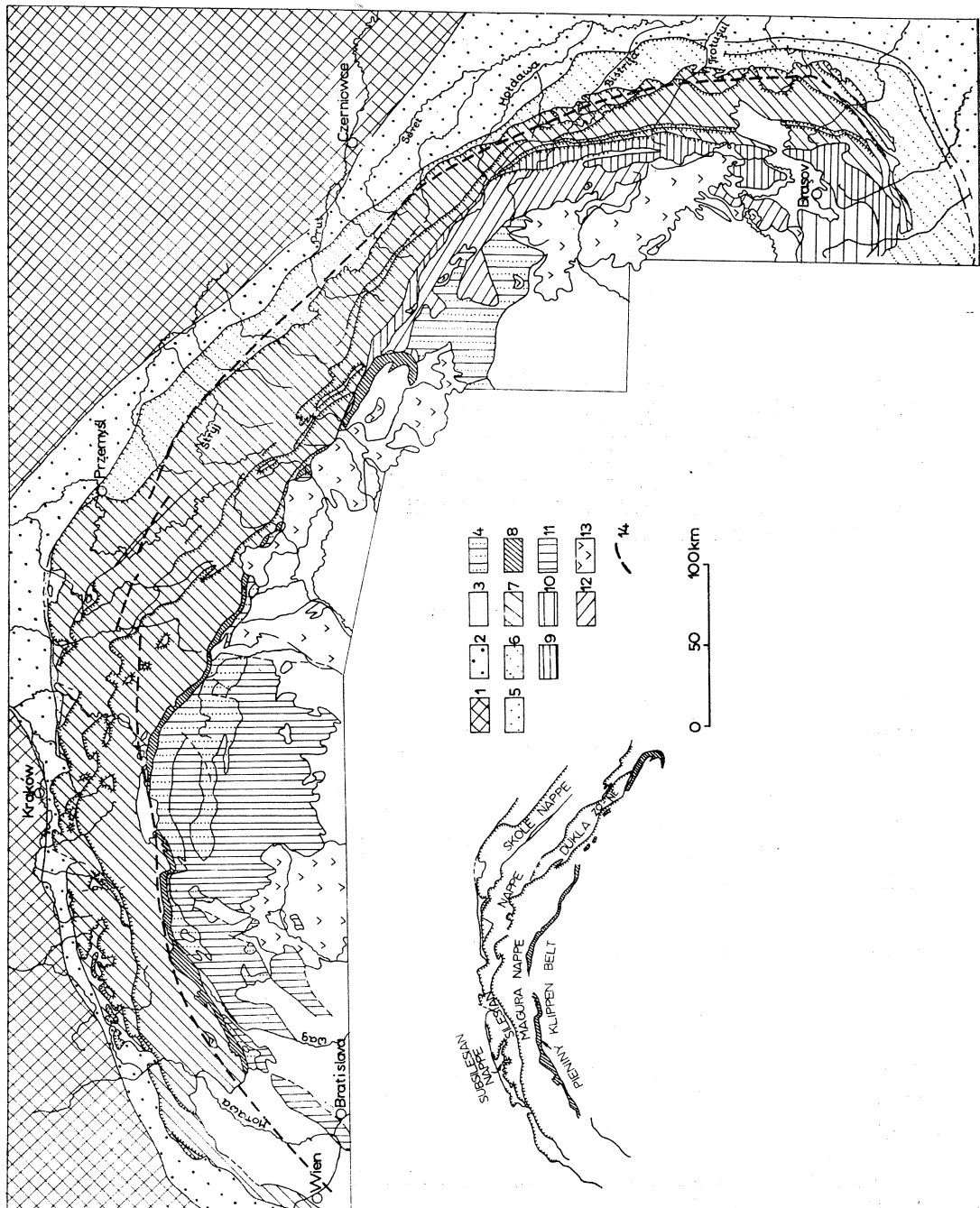
From an earlier study of paleogeography and palinspastic spatial relations of structural units of the Carpathians (Unrug, 1979) the author concluded, that the emplacement of the pile of nappes in the western part of the Outer Carpathians during post-Paleogene tectogenesis, was associated with a significant clockwise rotation. In the present paper the problem of tectonic rotation of nappes in the Polish Outer Carpathians and neighbouring areas of Czechoslovakia is examined in some details.

#### RELATION OF THE OUTER CARPATHIANS TO THE FORELAND PLATFORM

Along the Czechoslovakian and the Polish sector of the front of the Outer Carpathians, the flysch nappes are thrust over the Foreland Platform. In the Ukrainian and Roumanian sectors the front of the Outer Carpathians extends approximately along the boundary of the Foreland Platforms.

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The extent of the Foreland Platform under the overthrust flysch nappes of the Outer Carpathians is proved by drilling in the area west of Przemyśl. Recent reviews of the drilling results are given by Ślaczka (1976), Wdowiarz (1976), Karnkowski (1977), and Roth (1978). The posi-



tion of the boundary of the Foreland Platform is determined by geophysical data. The axis of the linear negative gravimetric anomaly associated with the outer zone of the whole Carpathian arc (Fig. 1), is considered as indicating the border of the Foreland Platform. This idea is confirmed by results of the Deep Seismic Sounding Program, which indicated a step-like increase of the depth of the Moho discontinuity to c. 50 km at, or near to, the axis of the negative gravimetric anomaly, in all profiles intersecting the Carpathian arc (Szenas, 1972, Sollogub et al., 1973, A. Ślącza, 1975).

It can be seen from Fig. 1 that in the area east of Przemyśl the front of the Outer Carpathians is approximately coinciding with the axis of the negative gravimetric anomaly, and therefore with the border of the Foreland Platform. The axis of the negative gravimetric anomaly crosses the front of the Outer Carpathians south of Przemyśl, and west of this locality it extends across the Outer Fylsch Belt, partly near the northern margin of the Pieniny Klippen Belt. Therefore, in the area west of Przemyśl the nappes overriding the Foreland Platform are rotated clockwise.

#### RELATIONS OF THE NAPPES TO THE NORTHERN FRONT OF THE OUTER FLYSCH BELT

The western part of the Outer Fylsch Belt of the Carpathians is characterized by a disposition of the individual nappes relaying each other at the front of the Outer Fylsch Belt. Instead, in the area east of Przemyśl the individual nappes are disposed more regularly parallel to the front of the Outer Fylsch Belt.

This situation in the western part of the Outer Fylsch Belt, recognized first by J. Nowak (1927), is partly inherited from the Late Creta-

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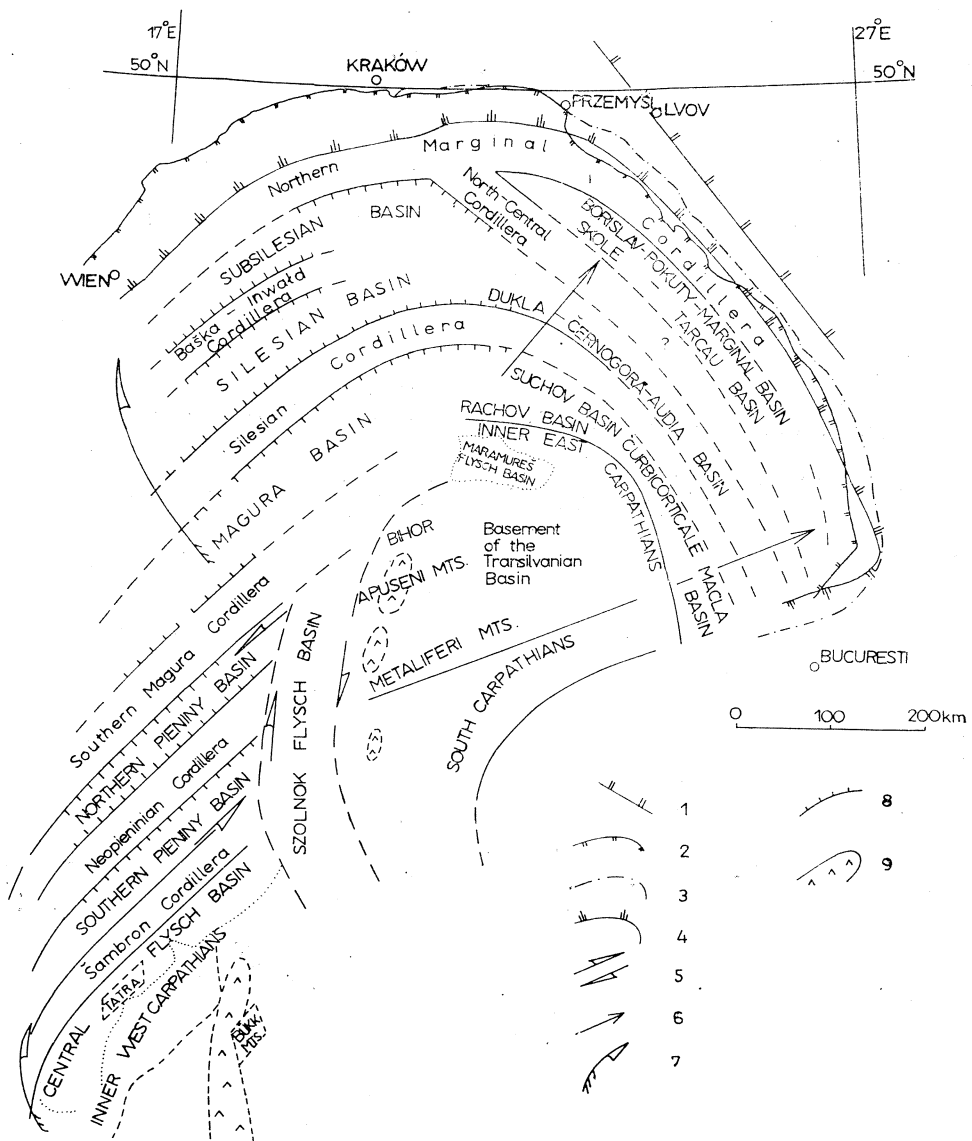
Fig. 1. Tectonic map of the Carpathians (After data of M. Książkiewicz, M. Sandulescu and A. Ślącza). 1 — Foreland; 2 — Foredeep; 3 — Neogene and Quaternary in intramontane basins; 4 — Paleogene flysch of the Inner Carpathians weakly folded; 5 — folded Pliocene; 6 — folded Miocene partly overlying Cretaceous — Paleogene flysch; 7 — Outer Fylsch Belt — Tithonian — Paleogene flysch; 8 — Pieniny Klippen Belt; 9 — Ceahlau nappe — inner East Carpathian flysch; 10 — South Carpathians; 11 — Inner West Carpathians, 12 — Inner East Carpathians; 13 — Neogene volcanic rocks; 14 — axis of negative gravimetric anomaly

In set: nappes of the northern part of the Outer Fylsch Belt.

Fig. 1. Mapa tektoniczna Karpat zestawiona na podstawie map M. Książkiewicza, M. Sandulescu i A. Ślącza. 1 — Przedgórze; 2 — rów przedgórski; 3 — neogen i czwartorzęd w zapadliskach śródgórskich; 4 — flisz paleogeński Karpat Wewnętrznych słabo sfałdowany; 5 — pliocen sfałdowany; 6 — miocen sfałdowany, częściowo leżący na fliszu Karpat Zewnętrznych; 7 — flisz Karpat Zewnętrznych; 8 — pienięński pas skałkowy; 9 — płaszczowina Ceahlau — flisz wewnętrzny Karpat Wschodnich; 10 — Karpaty południowe; 11 — Zachodnie Karpaty Wewnętrzne; 12 — Wschodnie Karpaty Wewnętrzne; 13 — Neogeńskie skały wulkaniczne; 14 — oś ujemnej anomalii grawimetrycznej

O b o k o b j a ś n i e Ń: schemat płaszczowin północnej części Karpat Fliszowych.

ceous — Paleogene paleogeography as indicated by facies and paleocurrents studies (Książkiewicz, 1956, 1960, 1962). However the disposition of the Sub-Silesian, Silesian and Magura nappes of the Western part of the Outer Flysch Belt (Fig. 1) in comparison with the palinspastic reconstruction of the basins in which the sedimentary series of these nappes were deposited (Unrug, 1979) shown in Fig. 2, also implies a clockwise rotation. This pertains mainly to the Magura nappe, which, in the west is thrust over the Sub-Silesian and Silesian nappes, while in the east is separated from the Silesian and Sub-Silesian nappes by the Dukla tectonic unit.



ROTATION OF SEGMENTS OF THE OUTER FLYSCH BELT ASSOCIATED  
WITH SINISTRAL STRIKE-SLIP FAULT ZONES

The idea of importance of strike-slip fault zones in the structure of the Outer Flysch Belt of the Carpathians was set forth by Tolwiński (1921) who stressed upon the coincidence of fault zones with changes of regional strike of fold axes. Książkiewicz (1953, 1958) recognized several large strike-slip fault zones, and in the last monograph on the tectonics of the Polish Carpathians (1972) stated that the majority of faults in the Outer Flysch Belt display strike-slip or combined dip-slip and strike-slip displacements. Important data on fault zones in the Polish Flysch Carpathians are also given by Świdziński (1953), Sikora and Żytko (1960), and Oszczytko (1973).

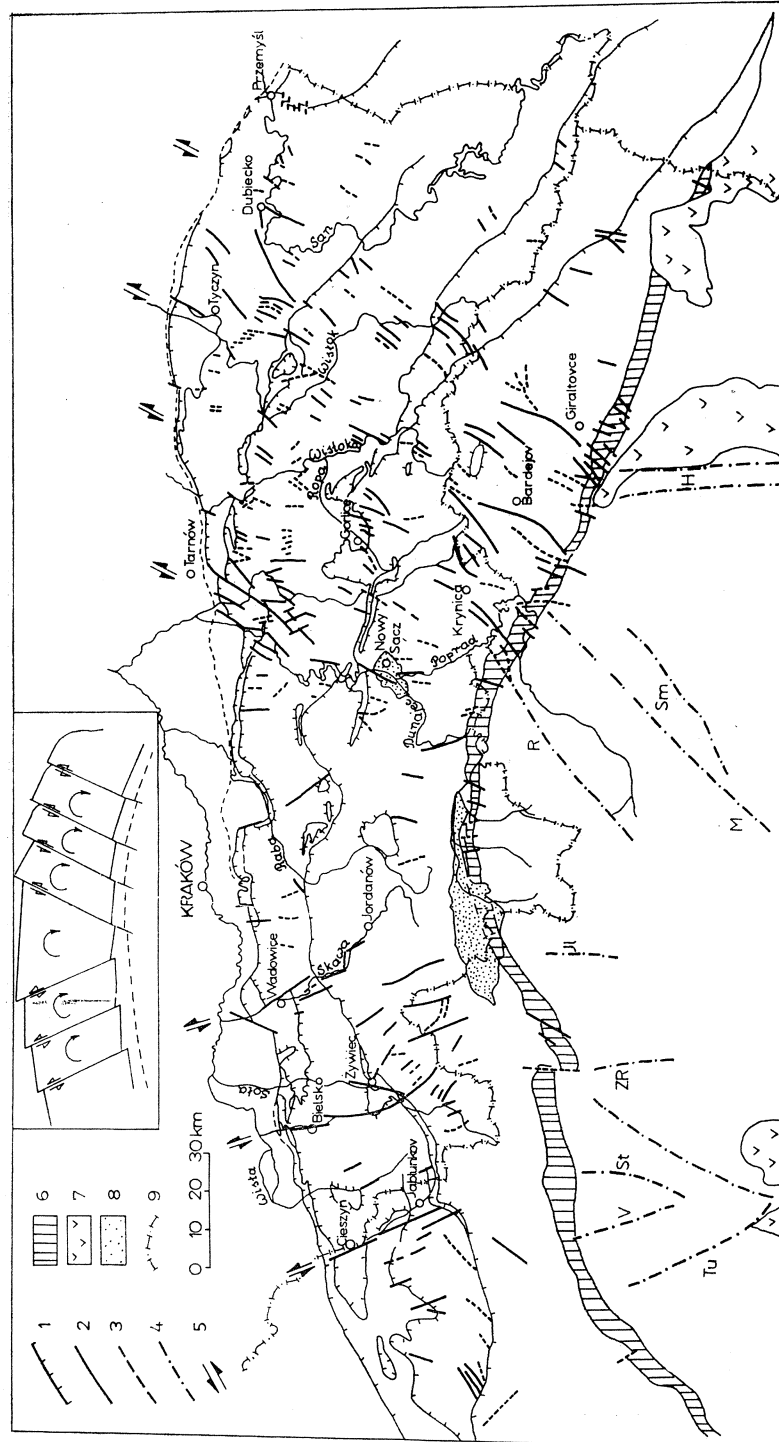
Major transversal strike-slip faults in the Outer Carpathians are presented in Fig. 3, which is compiled from geological maps in the scale 1 : 500 000 by Rühle (1977) and Fusan et al. (1967) and papers quoted above. It can be seen from Fig. 3 that sinistral strike-slip faults are more numerous than dextral ones. Moreover, sinistral strike-slip faults can be grouped into distinct fault zones extending across several nappes. Blocks contained between two sinistral-strike-slip fault zones are subject to clockwise rotation (Fig. 3 inset).

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Fig. 2. Palinspastic reconstruction of the Carpathians before the Neogene tectogenesis. The reconstruction is made with reference to the present position of the foreland of the Carpathians for which the geographic coordinates are given. 1 — South-western margin of the East-European platform; 2 — Northern and Eastern boundary of the Outer Flysch Belt consisting of nappes thrust outwards; 3 — Northern and Eastern boundary of the belt of folded Neogene sediments in front of the Outer Flysch Belt; 4 — Southern and South-Western boundary of the Foreland platform, indicated by the axis of the negative gravimetric anomaly; 5 — strike-slip displacement and shearing; 6 — direction of thrusting in Neogene tectogenesis; 7 — direction of thrusting and clockwise rotation in Neogene tectogenesis; 8 — zones of insular shelves associated with cordilleras with shallow-water sedimentation during Cretaceous-Paleogene; 9 — Late Cretaceous and Paleogene calc-alkaline volcanism and plutonism (andesites between the Inner West Carpathians and the Bükk Mts., banatites in the Apuseni Mts).

The sedimentary sequences of the basins are forming the individual nappes of the Outer Flysch Belt. The position of the basins are reconstructed from data on the tectonic structure of the Outer Flysch Belt and the Pieniny Klippen Belt. The position of the cordilleras are reconstructed on the basis of facial and sedimentological data

Fig. 2. Rekonstrukcja palinspastyczna Karpat przed tektogenezą neogeńską. Rekonstrukcję opracowano w odniesieniu do obecnej pozycji przedgórza Karpat. 1 — południowo-zachodnia krawędź platformy wschodnio europejskiej; 2 — północna i zachodnia granica nasuniętego fliszu Karpat Zewnętrznych; 3 — północna i wschodnia granica sfałdowanych osadów neogeńskich; 4 — południowa i południowo-zachodnia granica platformowego przedgórza Karpat wyznaczona przebiegiem ujemnej anomalii grawimetrycznej; 5 — strefy przemieszczeń przesuwczych i ścinania; 6 — kierunek nasunięć podczas tektogenezy neogeńskiej; 7 — kierunek nasunięć i rotacji zgodnej z ruchem wskazówek zegara podczas tektogenezy neogeńskiej; 8 — strefy szelfów wyspowych wokół kordylier — miejsce płytkowodnej sedimentacji węglanowej; 9 — późnokredowy i paleogeński wulkanizm wapienno-alkaliczny (andezyty w podłożu Wielkiej Niziny Węgierskiej) oraz banatyty w Górach Apuseni



Some river valleys in the Outer Carpathians are eroded along fault zones, and it was a common practice to define the fault zones by river names. However, some fault zones are not coinciding with river valleys, and therefore, for sake of uniformity in nomenclature, the fault zones defined below are named after major localities situated along them.

The following sinistral strike-slip fault zones, listed from the west to the east are distinguished in the Polish part of the Outer Carpathians and the neighbouring areas in Czechoslovakia:

- the Cieszyn-Jablunkov fault zone (a part of the Olza River valley extends along this fault zone),
- the Bielsko-Żywiec fault zone (parts of the Biała River valley and of the Soła River valley are developed along this fault zone),
- the Wadowice-Jordanów fault zone (the major part of the Skawa River valley is developed along this fault zone),
- the Tarnów-Nowy Sącz fault zone (segments of the Dunajec River valley and of the Poprad River valley are developed along this fault zone),
- the Gorlice-Krynica fault zone,
- the Tyczyn-Bardejov fault zone (short segments of the Wisłoka River valley and of the Wisłok River valley are developed along this fault zone),
- the Dubiecko-Giraltovce fault zone.

The edges and corners of the blocks contained between the strike-slip fault zones are clearly discernible at the northern unconstrained boundary of the Outer Flysch Belt. At the southern boundary, i.e. at the contact of the Outer Flysch Belt and the Pieniny Klippen Belt the edges and corners of the blocks are not clearly discernible. However it

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Fig. 3. Fault zones of the northern part of the Carpathian Outer Flysch Belt. 1 — overthrusts of the nappes of the Outer Flysch Belt; 2 — faults with sinistral strike-slip displacement; 3 — faults with dextral strike-slip displacement; 4 — major faults and fault zones in the Inner Carpathians (after Mahel 1974): Tu — Tuzina fault, V — Valča fault, St — Strečno fault, ZR — Zazriva fault zone, J1 — Jalovec fault, R — Rušbachy fault, M — Muraň fault, Sm — Smižany fault, H — Hornad fault zone; 5 — location of sinistral strike-slip fault zones in the Outer Flysch Belt; 6 — Pieniny Klippen Belt; 7 — Neogene volcanic rocks; 8 — Neogene intramontane basins; 9 — state boundaries.

In set: schematic diagram of blocks rotated clockwise between sinistral strike-slip fault zones.

Fig. 3. Strefy uskoku w północnych Karpatach Zewnętrznych. 1 — nasunięcia płaszczowin fliszowych; 2 — uskoki o lewej składowej przesuwczej; 3 — uskoki o prawej składowej przesuwczej; 4 — główne uskoki i strefy uskoku Karpat Wewnętrznych; (wg Mahel, 1974): Tu — uskoki Tuziny, V — uskoki Valča, St — uskoki Strečna, ZR — strefa uskoku Zazrivy, J1 — uskoki Jalovca, R — uskoki Rušbachów, M — uskoki Murania, Sm — uskoki Smiżan, H — strefa uskoku Hornadu, 5 — lokalizacja stref uskoku o lewej składowej przesuwczej w polskich Karpatach Zewnętrznych; 6 — pieniński pas skałkowy; 7 — neogeńskie skały wulkaniczne; 8 — zapadliska śródgórskie wypełnione osadami neogenu, 9 — granice państwowe. W r a m c e: schemat bloków poddanych rotacji pomiędzy strefami uskoku o lewej składowej przesuwczej.

is possible that the folds with southern vergency present locally at the southern margin of the Magura nappe and the south-directed back-thrusts in the Pieniny Klippen Belt are resulting from the southward push of the rotated blocks.

The problem of prolongation of the fault zones of the Outer Carpathians into the Inner Carpathians was discussed by Tołwiński (1921), J. Nowak (1927) and Ślaczka (1975) who suggested that deep-seated tectonic lineaments influenced the both parts of the Carpathian arc. Recently the opinion of J. Nowak was rejected by Książkiewicz (1972).

The results of the present study cast some doubt on the reality of prolongation of the Inner Carpathians fault zones into the Outer Carpathians. Most of the sinistral strike-slip fault zones of the Outer Carpathians do not match the large fault zones of the Inner Carpathians as shown in Fig. 3, where the fault zones of the Inner Carpathians are drawn after Mahel (1974, fig. 2, p. 94).

Sikora and Żytko (1960) suggested the prolongation of the Bielsko-Żywiec fault zone of the Outer Carpathians into the Zazriva fault zone of the Inner Carpathians. However, the Bielsko-Żywiec fault zone is deviating to the NW-SE direction in its southern part and do not match the Zazriva fault zone. Moreover, the Zazriva fault zone in its sector crossing the Pieniny Klippen Belt has dextral strike-slip displacement.

The Gorlice-Krynica fault zone is offset slightly to the east of the Rušbachy fault of the Inner Carpathians, which, as can be judged from the tectonic sketch by Mahel (1974, fig. 2, p. 94) has a sinistral strike-slip displacement.

The Tyczyn-Bardejov fault zone is matching either the Murań fault zone or the Smizany fault zone of the Inner Carpathians.

The Dubiecko-Giraltovce fault zone is butting obliquely to the Hornad fault zone of the Inner Carpathians.

#### SOME GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

McKenzie (1977) indicated that in the Alpide-Himalyan belt produced by continental collision the seismicity is diffused over a broad region indicating dip-slip and strike-slip motions accompanying thrusts. Tapponier (1977) proposed the mechanism of tectonic punching by continent-continent collision producing large-scale strike-slip displacement and the formation of induced arcs (Brunn, 1976). It follows clearly from these papers that strike-slip motions, which are generally associated with rotations, are of major importance in complicated kinematics of zones of continental collision.

The present study indicates the importance of strike-slip displacements and rotations in the structure of the Carpathians. The analysis of regional structure in the Outer Carpathians provide data which are













