

PORGMUN 2019



1968: THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Forum: Historical Security Council

COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. According to the UN Charter, the main function of the council is to sustain international peace and security between nations. The Security Council is made up of 15 members, 5 permanent (P5) and 10 non-permanent members which change every 2 years, chosen by the General Assembly and approved by the P5. The 5 permanent members with veto powers are the People's Republic of China (China), the French Republic (France), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Soviet Union), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom; UK), and the United States of America (United States; USA).

After World War II, with the creation of the UN, the P5 members were granted veto power, as they were the winners of this war. Veto Power means that if one of these countries votes against ("Not in Favour") a resolution or motion, it will not pass (If they abstain, it still can pass if no other P5 votes against). Though today it can be clearly said that there is a certain unbalance between global superpowers and those who "own" Veto Power. For example, Germany today is a global superpower but it does not have Veto Power. Also, Africa and other areas in the world do not have a representative with Veto Power as well.

The Security Council is the only UN body that its resolutions are binding, meaning that all countries should enforce their resolutions. All other UN bodies can recommend to the UNSC, but their resolutions are not binding. The Historical Security Council (HSC) follows the same procedures as the Security Council but simulates events that it has dealt with in the past.

INTRODUCTION

On the 21st of August 1968, half a million troops of the Warsaw Pact states' armies moved into Czechoslovakian territory in response to government policies imposed by a reformist faction led by president Alexander Dubček. The period of political liberalisation referred to as Prague Spring, categorised by moving away from the strict Soviet doctrine and granting of additional human rights was not well received in the USSR, which had dominated Czechoslovakia since WWII. The invasion was labelled by many as unlawful, and on the following night, Canada, Denmark, France, UK, and USA called for a meeting, discussing the supposed Soviet intervention/invasion (described by the USSR as "brotherly help" , and thus "not an invasion"). The aim of the meeting was to decide which of the mentioned categories the event fell into, and consequentially if, and how, the UN should act, in the means of intervening directly against one of its permanent, founding members.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

The Warsaw Pact

A set of defence-related treaties between the Soviet Union and its fellow satellite Soviet countries in Central and Eastern Europe; Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania. It was created on 14th May 1955, as a response to the American-European North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

NATO and Warsaw Pact were ideologically opposed, and thus they made a great contribution to the Cold War. The main difference between the Warsaw Pact and NATO was that in Warsaw Pact member states had to send military troops when a member state is attacking a country (also if the attacked country is a member of the Warsaw Pact) and if some member states are attacked, while NATO's policy was when a member state is attacked only then other member states must send troops to aid the attacked member states.

Communism

Communism is an economic theory, which in essence is that each person should have an equal opportunity to work and prosper as a human being, Therefore, society should be classless, and there is should be no private property.

Ideally, according to communism, the society owns the property in common, everyone participates in the labour, and everyone shares the profits of that labour. As a system of government, communism is often closer to a form of socialism, in which the state owns and operates the industry on behalf of the people. Karl Marx, a German philosopher who co-authored the Communist manifesto in 1848, concluded Communism in: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

Capitalism

Capitalism is an economic theory, which in essence dictates that each person can engage in the economic system in the things that they are good at. Therefore, ideally, everyone does not have the same opportunity to work, but everyone works at the position that fits them the most. According to capitalism, the economy is powered by individuals, and everyone can compete in a "free market." Eventually, the product and the services should be innovating and developing, in order to compete and provide the best product and service.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Cold War

After the defeat of the German Reich in World War II, Europe was to be split between its allies and the Soviet Union. The Czechoslovak Republic was liberated by the Soviets, later making it part of the Soviet Confederation.

At the same time as Europe was starting its healing process from the war, Communism was taking power in China, as the Chinese Communist Party obtained power during the Communist revolution in China in 1950. Communism was spreading quickly in Asia, with 1956 Korean War, which made two countries; North Korea, which was supported by China and USSR, and South Korea, which was supported by Western Europe and the USA. In 1959, the Vietnam War, between the Socialists and the Communist groups in Vietnam and the U.S. forces. Japan, which has become the main companion of the USA after the war in Asia, was afraid of the rise of Communism in its near countries.

Meanwhile, Europe was split between the USA and the USSR. USSR, which controlled Eastern Europe, wished to gain influence in Western Europe and spread Communist ideology. The USA wanted to give more loans to Europe so that they would invest this money in buying American

products to help in rebuilding Europe. The USSR saw the American “starvation” for money, as an attempt to get countries on their side.

At the same time, both the USSR and the USA were developing and stockpiling Nuclear Weapons. In 1955 NATO was established, and as it united Western Europe, the USSR saw this as a threat to its security.

All this, and more led to what it is known today as - “The Cold War.”

The USSR, which was afraid of any revolution that might show signs of weakness, tried to abolish any kind of untrusted leader by the main governor-the President of the USSR.

Prague Spring

In January of 1968, Alexander Dubček became the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (KSČ). He was a strong believer in the socialist regime, but he also felt it could be slightly more liberal than it was. After becoming First Secretary he initiated a program called “socialism with a human face.” The program was crucial to the events that led up to the invasion of Czechoslovakia later that year. Dubček’s more liberal approach to socialism meant the government even lifted censorship on media, something quite unheard of in the Soviet confederation. The time period between Dubček becoming First Secretary and the night of the invasion was called “Prague Spring”. This sort of mini-revolution was mainly organized and powered by artists, scientists and young educated people from Prague in general. Some of these young people did feel the need to be as open as possible and on June 27 wrote something called “Two Thousand Words.” It showed that the rest of the Soviet Confederation did indeed notice the Prague Spring and that they did not particularly agree with it.

On July 29 the Soviet and Czechoslovak governments had a meeting to discuss the Prague spring. The Czechoslovak government did clarify that the Prague spring was not a revolution and that they were indeed loyal to the Soviets. Brezhnev liked the outcome of this meeting and so he did not engage right away. A few days later, on August 3, the governments of the Warsaw Five met in Bratislava because the Five wanted the Czechoslovaks to sign the Bratislava Declaration, which made them completely loyal and obliged to the Warsaw Pact. During this meeting in Bratislava, a Czechoslovak politician called Vasil Bilak (later convicted of high treason), who strongly disagreed with the Prague Summer, gave Soviet officials the, what is now referred to as the “Invitation Letter.” The letter stated that Prague Spring was an anti-socialist revolution, which it was not, and invited the Warsaw Five to come to rescue the regime in Czechoslovakia.

TIMELINE OF THE INVASION

1968

August 20th

23:00 - The Warsaw Pact armies occupied south Slovakia (coming from Ukraine) and north Slovakia and Czech Silesia (from Poland).

0:00 - The armies occupied East Slovakia and Bratislava, now moving in on Moravia.

August 21st

1:00 - Slovakia is occupied, forces heading towards Prague from the east and north of the Czech lands.

4:00 - The Warsaw Pact forces are encircling Prague.

5:00 - Prague is encircled, forces moving to western Czechia.

6:00 - The occupation of Prague slowly started.

7:00 - The whole Czechoslovakia is occupied, except Prague.

8:00 - All streets of Prague are occupied by the forces.

Current Situation

On the morning of the first day of the Invasion, 21 August 1968, a letter to the President of the Security Council by Canada, Denmark, France, Paraguay, the UK and the USA asking him to put on the Agenda of the Council the topic of “the present serious situation in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic”.

Currently, all Czechoslovakia is occupied and protests are organized on the streets. It is the responsibility of the Security Council to help the people of Czechoslovakia and solve this crisis.

MAJOR PARTIES AND THEIR VIEWS

East European Bloc (Communist)

The Republic of Albania, Republic of Bulgaria, Hungarian People’s Republic, Polish People’s Republic, Socialist Republic of Romania, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are members of this bloc in our Security Council.

Western Europe and North American Bloc (Western Bloc)

Canada, Kingdom of Denmark, Republic of Finland, French Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America are the members of this bloc in our Security Council.

Non-Aligned Bloc

The people’s Republic of China and the Republic of Paraguay are members of this bloc in our Security Council. Although it can be said that they have clear opinions on this crisis, you need to remember that we are simulating the circumstances of that time. Thus, both China and Paraguay can support both sides.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD CONSIDER

Which International Block Does Your Country Support? What connections do you have to each bloc?

How would your country solve this kind of crisis? Through military intervention, or diplomatic ways?

APPENDIX

Forces comparison between Warsaw Pact and NATO:

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pictures/history_warsaw-pact/Warsaw-Pact.jpg

The Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia: Every Hour

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxaBxMB6vA8>

Czechs Fight For The Prague Spring

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKAantnfNx8>

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