

Jan Strasky  
Czechoslovakia 1990

The Velvet Revolution marked the start of a new era of Czechoslovak history, an era in which the economy and government in Czechoslovakia would be uprooted and replaced. The election of playwright Vaclav Havel on December 28th, 1989 demonstrates the epitome of this upheaval. Havel, a member of the Civic Forum, was a prominent leader within the non-violent revolutions that had started weeks earlier. Displays of nationalism on top of the anti-communist sentiments that began to spread in this period set the stage for a potential divide between Czech and Slovak ethnic groups into separate political entities.

Although I share a jovial relationship with Havel, there has been animosity between myself and Vaclav Klaus. I describe our relationship saying that "I think we're always friends, but we know that some things we cannot talk together," which may seem light-hearted; however, when asked about his rise to power in post-communist Czech Republic, I stated that "my biggest disappointment is that I thought that people are better." I have opposed Vaclav Klaus, whom I have characterized as "the most convinced Marxist under the sun," during the devolutionary process in Czechoslovakia, and I continue to oppose his economic policies, especially privatization.<sup>1</sup> Although I have my issues with Vaclav Klaus, I have warm relations with the other members of the committee.

That being said, I have a vested interest in the economic policies that Czechoslovakia will take on as the Velvet Revolution gives way to whatever may occur. As an individual who had been ousted from the country's Communist Party and having authored many economic papers clearly in support of capitalism, my personal support will be given to any policy that furthers capitalist economics within Czechoslovakian territories and beyond. As the head of the Central Bank, I will give special support to anything that expands the commercial and financial prowess of my domination in the banking industry, but ideally I can gain financial control of an entire country so I can personally ensure stability through westernization because under current circumstances where only 4% of revenue comes from private industry, which is egregiously low.<sup>2</sup>

As such, within committee, my ultimate goal is to achieve complete control of the finances of a stable westernized nation after the division of Czechoslovakia. Seeing as the only person who stands between me and my goal is Vaclav Klaus, and both Klaus and I are Czech ethnically, it is necessary for me to call for a three way division of Czechoslovakia into Bohemia, Moravia-Silesia, and Slovakia. Due to his Slovak identity and economic background, Ludovit Cernak should gain financial responsibility of Slovakia. Personally, I would prefer to obtain Bohemia for my personal domain due to the large portion of the Czech territory and population who lives within Bohemia, and despite the mineral riches of Moravia-Silesia, the lumber industry in Bohemia is ripe for picking, and it could easily be developed. Once the country is divided, it is essential to unify the bank until economics have stabilized. Keeping one bank and dividing the wealth based on population in each region is an essential step in moving towards a peaceful stable separation. Although I would still control the bank, I would delegate duties to Josef Tosovsky in Moravia and Viktoria Muckova in Slovakia due to their work in the national bank alongside myself during the 1980s.<sup>34</sup> Once the separate nations have been established, westernization is the next essential step. Having Bohemia join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization early in its establishment would be essential to the public safety as the threat of war with other former soviet satellites could raise as the devolutionary process occurs and Bohemia looks to the west for a model of economics. By working closely with Jan Carnogursky, who is the deputy prime minister under Petr Pithart, I could establish a cordial relationship that would, ideally, result in my appointment to the Minister of Finance for Bohemia, which would afford me control, not only of the bank, but also over all of the financial exchanges of this westernizing nation. This is my personal plan to establish myself as the financial authority over a westernized region based on my history with the Communist Party and my poor relations with Vaclav Klaus.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://nazory.ihned.cz/c1-59481620-jan-strasky-co-klaus-sam-neciti-nikdy-neposlechne>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/1990/03/12/business/international-report-entrepreneurs-in-czechoslovakia-await-law.html>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.nbs.sk/\\_img/Documents/PUBLIK/1997\\_Banking%20System%20Development.pdf](http://www.nbs.sk/_img/Documents/PUBLIK/1997_Banking%20System%20Development.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.cnb.cz/en/about\\_cnb/cnb\\_archive/cnb\\_archiv\\_guverneri.html](https://www.cnb.cz/en/about_cnb/cnb_archive/cnb_archiv_guverneri.html)