Position Paper

Committee: Specialised Agencies

Topic: Czechoslovakia in 1990

Country: Czechoslovakia

Welcome! My name is Rita Klimova. I am a Czech citizen even though I was born in Romania in 1931. My family moved to the USA in 1939 after the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia and returned to my homeland in 1946. This explains my fluent English speech and also my inherent leading towards the West. During the normalization period my father and I both supported the communist principles but I have gradually challenged these principles and systems gradually moving towards support of democracy and free market systems. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Kl%C3%ADmov%C3%A1>)

You are all aware of my leading role in the major changes that have dramatic impact on our country politically, economically and relation to the new openness of our national borders. My label of these events “The Velvet Revolution” has now in an actual fact has been adopted as the label for these events. From November 17th Civic unrest in Czechoslovakia gradually increased in intensity and violence over the coming weeks. From a student demonstration in Prague the numbers of protestors increased from 200 hundred thousand to 500 hundred thousand in a matter of days. Students and actors became the main catalysts in this challenge to the political and economic system under Communism and the power of the Communist party. The borders of West Germany and Austria had been opened by early December and by December the 10th a largely non-Communists government was appointed in for the first time in 1948. The famous militant, Alexander Dubcek was elected Speaker in December 1928 and Vacalav became the president on December 29th. The Velvet Revolution, in the context of World events especially in the fall of the Berlin Wall earlier in 1989 had brought about rapid and significant and political and economic change in Czechoslovakia. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Kl%C3%ADmov%C3%A1>)

Thus, I propose to you that there are significant issues facing Czechoslovakia here in June of 1990, which should not be minimized. Firstly, the new Democratic government of President Husak is in need of continued support by the people especially with the lingering threat and Political influence of the Communist party. The Czechoslovakian people must continue to be aware of the threat posed by the KGB and other covert Russian agencies. Secondly, Czechoslovakia is moving towards a free market economy with strong trading links with the West, including Germany, other neighboring countries especially the USA. Finally, and perhaps most importantly for the future, we must countinue to be aware of the historical tensions between Czech and Slovak communities. It is not unrealistic to view this as perhaps the biggest danger facing Czechoslovakia here in June of 1990.

It is the hope of the Czechoslovakian nation that strong links with bordering countries such as, the new Germany, the UK and especially the US will offer economic benefits and diplomatic support for this emerging country.

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Kl%C3%ADmov%C3%A1>)

References:

<http://www.ssuns.org/static/BG/Czech.pdf>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Kl%C3%ADmov%C3%A1>