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Special Assembly Czechoslovakia

Vladimir Meciar

The issues before Vladimir Meciar are:

1. The fall of Communism in Eastern Europe and Czechoslovakia
2. Czechoslovakia in the Cold War

I. The fall of communism in eastern Europe and Czechoslovakia

Throughout the late 1980’s, there were many countries who were trying to fall out of communism and into democracy. There were protests in the Baltics, the fall of the Berlin Wall, uprisings in Romania, and much more. The first part of the transition of communism in Czechoslovakia occurred with the Velvet Revolution1. Vladimir Meciar was a strong supporter of moving from communism to a new form of government. As a member of the Peoples Against Violence­2, he supports the idea of moving towards a democratic government. As a former member of the communist party2, Meciar knows how the communist party works and its flaws. From his experience, he understands how a political party is supposed to function and he knows how to make sure it does not function like a communist party. As a member of the communist party during Prague Spring4 before being expelled a year later3, he saw how violence lead to the communist party losing support.

Most countries have peacefully transitioned from a communist government. The Baltics protested being in the Soviet Union with the Baltic Chain. This was a peaceful way to protest. There was also the domino effect in the Eastern Bloc. Poland started the domino effect when they founded the independent self governing “Trade Union” also known as Solidarity1. This movement became very popular and helped lead to Poland to democracy after they won the majority of the seats in the senate. Hungary also helped with the domino effect and disabling physical border defences1. Then the fall of the Berlin Wall helped East Germany and West Germany united creating one country1 and increasing the domino effect. These peaceful transitions allowed for the people to support democracy without violence. Meciar, as a member of the Public Against Violence, supports the idea of a peaceful transition to democracy as a violent transition may not get the support of the people. The political party is against violence and therefore would support a peaceful transition. Trying to eliminate the communist party would not help a peaceful transition as a lot of the country supports communism.

Therefore, Vladimir Merciar

1. Supports the idea of moving from a communist government to a democratic government.

2. Supports the idea of moving peacefully towards a full democratic government without eliminating the Communist Party.

II. Czechoslovakia in the Cold War

During the Cold War, Czechoslovakia experienced many changes. They became a member of the Warsaw pact as well as a member of COMECON8. For the first part of the Cold War, there was also much economic growth. The economy grew very fast and was doing very well. This went well until the economic growth slowed and The Communist Party could no longer keep on growing1. Many complained about the lack of freedom and the poor economy at the time6. This economic plateau caused average income to lower as well as inflation to rise. Meciar believes that having steady economic growth is important as it benefits the people. As the Minister of Interior and Environment for Slovakia2, Meciar believes it to be important that there is economic growth to maintain a steady income for the people and make sure that the environment is stable. This also means that increasing foreign trade is important. Increasing trade outside of the socialist block would allow for more goods to be traded with other countries who could help the economic situation in Czechoslovakia. With much of the industry being state owned, people did not have access to what they made1.

Meciar also believes in not supporting the communist party. In 1968, there was Prague Spring4. Before this invasion, the Communist Party was supported greatly by many people. This occurred when other countries invaded Czechoslovakia because of Alexander Dubcek pushing to improve many things in the Warsaw Pact that other members did not agree on. This caused much tension between the countries and the Soviets to invade­8. As a member of the Communist Party at the time, Meciar would have been involved in this uprising. Though Meciar was expelled from the party a year later3 he would know what communism is from being a former communist and knows that it is not right for the country. There was a loss of economic control and invasions that endangered the lives of people.

Therefore, Vladimir Meciar

1. Believes in expanding trade outside of the socialist block and helping the economy grow.

2. Supports Public Against Violence and implementing a democratic form of government to benefit the country economically and to benefit the safety of the public.

Bibliography

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