Model United Nations Position Paper

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Czechoslovakia 1990 – Marian Calfa

**What are the roles, and who are the allies of your character?**

Marian Calfa was the former Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia from 1989-1992. He was the first Prime Minister in the post-communist era. A man who was once highly regarded in Gustav Husak’s communist regime, became instrumental in the planning and execution of the Velvet Revolution in 1989. When Marian Calfa left the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in January of 1989, he immediately joined the political movement known as the Public Against Violence. In this organization, he spent time negotiating with the communist party in order to find a peaceful way to relinquish power from the communist government. Calfa was a vital member in the Velvet Revolution protests which spanned over the course of one month, whilst seeing more than 500,000 protesters support the idea of a peaceful transfer of power. Once the Velvet Revolution succeeded, and the communist government was removed of power in Czechoslovakia, Calfa was instructed with creating a new coalition government to fully rid the concept of communism in a post-revolutionary Czechoslovakia. The man who tasked Calfa with creating the new government was one of his closest allies, acting president Vaclav Havel. Calfa aided Havel in his campaign, eventually to come out victorious as the first democratic president in 44 years. They both shared the same political ideologies with one another, as well as that they both were committed to making sure the new free market would become a main source of prosperity in Czechoslovakia. Another individual with whom Calfa was allied with was the Financial Minister Vaclav Klaus. This was mainly due to the economic recession Czechoslovakia experienced once it removed its communist relations. The two worked together to ensure that when Czechoslovakia transferred from a command market to a free market, the time would be minimal to see an economic increase. Regardless of Calfa’s short tenure as Prime Minister, he was influential in the process of political reformation. Calfa, a man who was once a major supporter of the communist regime, began to understand that the economic benefits of a command economy weren’t as profitable as a free economy. This realization allowed for a multitude of events to percolate within both the Slovak and Czech political systems.

**What are the goals/ideas that your character is trying to achieve?** (present tense)

Calfa understands that the communist regime is collapsing across Europe and will not guarantee economic stability in the future, and that the party itself is too corrupt to run such a large country. Calfa also realizes that capitalist societies of the west are becoming more economically profitable than a socialist regime. And so, he left his role in the Czechoslovakian communist government to participate in Public Against Violence. He wants to remove communism, whilst avoiding any casualties in the process, and so along with the Czech Civic Forum, the two groups are gathering supporters to demand the removal of the communist government in power. This can be accomplished through rallies and protests rather than physically civil warfare. As communism is being transitioned into democracy, it is also vital that Czechoslovakia should follow a multi-party system. If he is given enough power in office to create his own policies, Calfa would greatly stress the importance of a general election. Campaigning heavily on the idea that if Czechoslovakia is to commit to this new regime, it must be the job of the people to fairly, freely and democratically select the representatives in office. An economic reform is also essential to strengthen the economy, but it must be done at a gradual rate so that it would avoid any mass unemployment or a disruption in certain social groups that are economically weak. Finally, Marian Calfa would believe heavily of the importance of political diversity in the government having representatives from multiple parties in order to receive points of view from different and similar political sources.

**Key events that occur in the history of your committee**

In 1989, there was a major push from Soviet related countries to break apart from this communist regime and replace it with a modern political philosophy known as democracy. There was also an increase of Slovak and Czech division, this resulted in both these races to create their own separate political prioritizations, which ultimately lead to an eventual split between the two countries in 1993. Prior to the Velvet Revolution, the President of Czechoslovakia was a pro-communist Gustav Husak, he had previously pushed for the idea of creating a federal state with two equal republics, Czech and Slovak. Although these two republics shared political strategists, and leaders, most of the “important” and “influential” leaders were Slovak. The Czech’s were financially struggling to keep up with Slovaks, eventually resulting them to receive financial aid from the financial budget. This put a major strain between the two republics. But these issues did not occur that late into history, instead, it began with a major separation during WWII which saw the Slovaks act as Nazi sympathisers persecuting both Jews and Czechs. This put a major strain on Slovak and Czech relations even prior to the fall of communism. After the war was over, there were still major attempts to fix these relations but with the increasing number of left-wing Czechs versus communists, it was merely impossible to fix any issue at hand. It was not only the work of Czechoslovakians, but protestors in the Baltic nations began to join together in defiance of the Soviet Union. But the major collapse began with the Eastern Bloc, when a domino effect that started with an elected Democratic president in Poland, to the ten-day Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia. This ten-day revolution was arguably the most significant moment in Czechoslovakian history. This process was the defining moment as the transfer of power from Communist state to a Republic state in such a short time. Czechoslovakia’s transfer of political power was also one of the shortest and most peaceful transfers. As a lot of eastern European countries were experiencing this transition, the nature in which this process had occurred was much more peaceful and productive than other Baltic counterparts.

**What are some possible changes you have for your committee?**

Since my committee commences during the fall of communism, I believe the number one priority is finding a way to strengthen Slovak and Czech ties before it is too late. When the Slovaks declared independence a day before the Czechs were invaded by Nazi Germany, the political relations have never been the same since. It is vital that strong trade agreements are created between these two nations, even in the case of a possible split in Czechoslovakia. Guaranteed military support is important, as the fear of another world, or nuclear war looms. Free trade can also be established to remove any tariffs. Meaning that importing exotic goods, whilst exporting common resources can be completed without charging taxes on the consumer. I also believe that the fall of communism would provide a great opportunity to improve relations with nations that have just exited communism and entered a democratic society as well. Political ideologies would be shared between the two nations and free markets would be accessible to a much larger variety of consumers who may demand a certain resource. Financial support can also be provided in the case of an economic emergency, eventually hoping to unify most of the Baltic and Eastern European nations.

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