

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas on September 3, 1918, the United States Government recognized the Czecho-Slovak National Council as the official Government of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas on October 28, 1918, the peoples of Bohemia, Moravia, and part of Silesia, comprising the present Czech Republic, and peoples of Slovakia, comprising the present Slovak Republic, proclaimed their independence in a common state of the Czechoslovak Republic;

Whereas on November 17, 1939, the Czech institutions of higher learning were closed by the Nazis, many students were taken to concentration camps, and nine representatives of the student movement were executed

Whereas between 1938 and 1945, the Nazis annexed part of Bohemia, set up a fascist “protectorate” in the rest of Bohemia and in Moravia, and installed a puppet fascist government in Slovakia;

Whereas the Communists seized power from the democratically elected government of Czechoslovakia in March 1948;

Whereas troops from Warsaw Pact countries invaded Czechoslovakia in August 1968, ousted the reformist government of Alexander Dubcek, and restored a hard-line communist regime;

Whereas on November 17, 1989, the brutal break up of a student demonstration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the execution of Czech student leaders and the closure of universities by the Nazis triggered the explosion of mass discontent that launched the Velvet Revolution, which was characterized by reliance on nonviolence and open public discourse;

Whereas the peoples of Czechoslovakia overthrew 40-years of totalitarian communist rule in order to rebuild a democratic society;

Whereas since November 17, 1989, the people of the Czech and Slovak Republics have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system based upon freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices as they were recognized by President Wilson and President Thomas G. Masaryk;

Whereas the Czech Republic joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on March 12, 1999, the admission of which was approved by the Senate of the United States on April 30, 1998;

Whereas the Czech and Slovak Republics are in the process of preparing for admission to the European Union;

Whereas the people of the United States and the Czech and Slovak Republics have maintained a special relationship based on shared democratic values, common interests, and bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

Whereas the American people have an affinity with the peoples of the Czech and Slovak Republics and regard the Czech and Slovak Republics as trusted and important partners: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the 10th anniversary of the his-
4 toric events in Central and Eastern Europe that
5 brought about the collapse of the communist regimes
6 and the fall of the Iron Curtain, and commemorates
7 with the Czech and Slovak Republics the 10th anni-
8 versary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia,
9 which underscores the significance and value of re-
10 claimed freedom and the dignity of individual citi-
11 zens;

12 (2) commends the peoples of the present Czech
13 and Slovak Republics for their achievements in
14 building new states and pluralistic democratic soci-
15 eties nearly 60 years of totalitarian fascist and com-
16 munist rule;

17 (3) supports the peoples of the Czech and Slo-
18 vak Republics in their determination to join trans-
19 Atlantic institutions through memberships in the
20 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and
21 the European Union;

22 (4) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and close
23 cooperation that have existed between the United
24 States and the Czech and Slovak Republics; and

1 (5) extends the warmest congratulations and
2 best wishes to the Czech Republic and Slovak Re-
3 public and their people for a peaceful, prosperous,
4 and successful future.

Passed the Senate November 8, 1999.

Attest:

Secretary.

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 68

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of historic events in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and the Czech and Slovak Republics.