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
Folder Title:
Czech Dinner Toast, 11/90

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November 7, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM:

BOB SIMON 

SUBJECT:

PRAGUE SPEECHES

General

- o Czechoslovakia is made up of two separate states: Czech and Slovakia. It is a sensitive subject with the Slovaks that the President is not visiting Slovakia, so he should say "I wish I had time to visit Slovakia (or Bratislava, their biggest city). When referring to the people, always refer to Czechs and Slovaks, not just Czechs.
- o The people are friendly, wear Western style clothing, and like Americans very much.
- o The economy is better than Poland; there is merchandise to buy. However, they have almost no experience with private retailing like in Hungary. They are about to undergo a wrenching switch to capitalism. Havel is a populist. He says, "Why should the people suffer? They did nothing wrong." However, Havel's new finance minister urges a quick change to private enterprise. It will be painful, but should succeed.
- o I saw no evidence of 40 years of communist rule on the streets. No red stars. No hammers and sickels. No communist statues.
- o Prague is a stunningly beautiful city on a level with Paris and Budapest. There is a mixture of medieval, gothic, Baroque and Classical architecture that is unique in Europe. However, all of the buildings are covered in heavy soot from the heavy use of coal. If cleaned, Prague would rank high on a list of Europe's wonders. The Czech's say, "Don't judge us now. Wait five years." It will take longer, but they should make a lot of progress.
- o The U.S. is held in high regard. Woodrow Wilson was considered crucial in forming the country in 1918. They also appreciate us for standing up against communism, particular during the Prague Spring in 68. They are not expecting lots of \$\$\$ but do want technical assistance and advice. Radio Free Europe is also credited with keeping the dissident movement going.
- o The press is now totally free. I saw a Playboy-style Czech calendar on sale in the Metro station under Wenceslas Square for \$1.30. (Didn't buy it.)

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ADDRESS TO FEDERAL ASSEMBLY

This should be 12-15 minutes on teleprompter. About 300 legislators will be seated in an austere, modern auditorium. The building, built by the communists, is modern and fairly ugly. The only interesting item is that the new government installed two busts in the entry lobby of Thomas G. Masaryk and M.R. Stefanik. Masaryk was the country's first President. Stefanik was general under Masaryk. They are considered the founders of the country.

ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE IN WENCESLAS SQUARE

The address should be 5-8 minutes on cards. Translation will be consecutive. The site is directly in front of the statue of St. Wenceslas on his horse. Directly in front of the stage is the informal memorial created by the people to commemorate those slain by Soviet tanks in the Square in 1968. Fresh flowers and photos of the martyrs lay on a circle of bare ground about 15 feet in diameter. Surrounding the photos are 8 inch mounds of molten wax formed by 23 years of candles being burned more or less constantly. Several times the memorial was wiped away in 68, only to reappear. Eventually, the communists gave up trying to eliminate it. (Check this.)

Wenceslas Square is the spiritual and emotional heart of this nation. It is the grandest boulevard in Prague. It is the heart of the commercial district. It is where the Soviet tanks rolled in to crush dissent in 68. It is where the Velvet Revolution peacefully overthrew the communists in 89. King Wenceslas was also the originator of Czech nationalism several centuries ago. It was suggested to me that the speech be built around the phrase: "The history of freedom was written here." This should go over well. Maybe the President could say it in Czech? I don't know if it's pronounceable.

A crowd of 50,000 to 100,000 is planned. Maybe more will come.

EMBASSY GREETING

Ambassador Black packs a .357 magnum when she takes her dog for a walk in her back yard. The President mentioned her marksmanship skills in his Glynco, GA speech last year. The dog, a boxer, is named Gorby. (Joke: I just had a summit meeting with Gorby.) Black said she hopes the USSS puts lights in the back yard, because it's very dark at night. Acknowledge Admin, officer Frank Coulter, & DCM Ted Russell.

GENERAL

Call Tom Hull at US Embassy and ask him for a list of communist place names that have been changed in the last year. Also, check to see if the Railroad Station has been renamed. It was originally named for President Wilson, but the communists eliminated that name. The new government may rename it for Wilson soon.

The garden behind the US Embassy slopes up a terraced hill that is topped by a little portico called a gloriotta. Atop it flies the American flag. Near the top of this hill, the flag is visible throughout

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much of Prague and is also clearly visible from the Castle where the President's office is. Over the last 40 years, it was both a source of hope for the citizens and a thorn in the side of the Communist rulers as Old Glory flew on the second highest hill in Prague.

GERMANY UPDATE

Disregard my note yesterday about the German schedule changing. According to Keller, nothing has changed and we are still doing the brief remarks in Speyer.

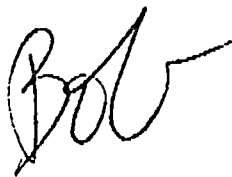
PARIS

Paris is very expensive but beautiful. Saw the Arc deTriomphe last night and went up in the Eiffel Tower. I'm not impressed by much anymore, but the Eiffel Tower is really cool, especially at night. Today, we go to Versailles. That should be great.

By the way, the only remarks in Paris is an Embassy greeting on 11/21 in the a.m. See the President's remarks, from last year. Acknowledge Amb. Walter Curley, DCM Mark Lissfelt, and Administrative Minister-Counselor Bruce Clark. The President will overnight at Curley's residence. (It's at least as fancy as the White House; maybe more so.)

The President's schedule consists of a lot of plenary sessions of the CSCF, treaty signings and bilaterals. On the 1st day, there is lunch at Flysee Palace. On the 2nd night, a dinner at Versailles. Unless you are still writing for Saudi Arabia, I would estimate quite a bit of free time while in Paris. (The dollar is dropping; buy your francs now!)

No report tomorrow, We are travelling to Saudi all day long.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bob', is located at the bottom center of the page.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 14, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DINNER TOAST

Attached for your review is a draft toast for the dinner in Prague to be held on November 17, 1990, hosted by U.S. Ambassador Shirley Temple Black at the American Embassy.

The toast celebrates the one year anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, and applauds the bright future of Czechoslovakia.

Grant/Dooley
November 13, 1990
9:30 a.m.
A:CZECH.TOA

**PRESIDENTIAL TOAST: CZECHOSLOVAKIA DINNER
AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1990**

First of all, my sincere thanks to our hostess, Ambassador Shirley Temple Black, for her warm hospitality.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to visit the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, and to see first-hand the remarkable changes taking place here. I always enjoy seeing President Havel, and we have spent a glorious day together -- going from the Federal Assembly to Wenceslas Square, the place where the "Velvet Revolution" first began.

For it was there, a year ago tonight that thirty thousand students gathered to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of a Czech student -- killed at the hands of the Nazis in another protest, that time on the eve of World War II. One student spoke of the courage of those brave Czechs who gave their lives fighting aggression. He said, "We are remembering our predecessors, who did not hesitate to give their lives for what they believed in at that time."

That night a year ago, the Czechoslovak protestors honored their predecessors but also showed us something else: that the power of the people is invincible.

And over the last year, you've formed a new constitution, renamed this great country, and held the first democratic elections in more than four decades. You have moved your

revolution from the streets into the houses of parliament and the halls of government. You have inspired the world.

We Americans, who helped in the creation of Czechoslovakia, share your joy and your sense of excitement.

The road ahead will be difficult. But you will not journey alone. And I am confident that the Czech and Slovak peoples will meet the challenges before them -- and triumph.

So let us all lift our glasses. I now propose a toast: To the power of your people, and to the power of the friendship between our two great nations.

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Grant/Dooley
November 14, 1990
2:00 a.m.
A:CZECH.TOA

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Your courageous patriots in world War II taught us that appeasement toward an aggressor does not pay. And today multinational forces are standing up to aggression elsewhere in the world. Because of bitter lessons learned at Munich in 1938, all now agree: there will be no appeasement this time.

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We Americans, who helped in the creation of Czechoslovakia, when this century was still young, share your joy and your sense of excitement.

The road ahead will be difficult. But you will not journey alone. And I am confident that the Czech and Slovak peoples will meet the challenges before them -- and triumph.

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