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Prague Trip / Toast, 11/90

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POTUS VISIT TO PRAGUE: EMBASSY GREETING

-Ambassador Shirley Temple Black: Hollywood's greatest box office attraction at the age of seven, later Congresswoman and U.N. delegate.

-has a dog named Gorby

-carries a .357 magnum with her at all times

-movies include: Stand Up and Cheer, Little Miss Marker, Baby Take a Bow, Now and Forever, and Bright Eyes ("Good Ship Lollipop"), The Little Colonel, Wee Willie Winkie, The Little Princess.

-Czechoslovakia is a country of roughly 16 million people about the size of New York state.

-President Havel's stated goal is to see Prague become "the spiritual center of Europe."

-Havel: "...the salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than in the human heart, in the human power to reflect, in human meekness and in human responsibility."

"...the only genuine backbone of all our actions -- if they are to be moral -- is responsibility. Responsibility to something higher than my family, my country, my firm, my success."

-Havel said of the American Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence that "they inspire us to be citizens."

-The major result of Havel's visit to the White House last February was the President's announced intention to give Czech greater access to American markets; steps leading to M.F.N. status.

-Unlike leaders of other Eastern European nations, Havel indicated to the President that he was not interested in outright U.S. financial aid.

-Havel's visit to New York on the same trip was led at a dizzying pace that parallels both the pace of events over the past few years in Eastern Europe and the President's personal style. It began with breakfast at Gracie Mansion, moved on to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the residence of the City's Cardinal, the United Nations, Columbia University, and culminated in a gala concert at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. And this was all before dinner. Finally, the visit included a late night ramble to hot spots in Greenwich Village and So Ho. (Good joke possibility here: the President and I would make good traveling partners; we could get more done on the road than Hope and Crosby...President Havel and I have a lot in common: he visits cities like I play golf...)

-Havel is famous for his disdain for formal wear (ie. ties) and is most comfortable in blue jeans.

90 OCT 13 A10:18

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 was going to change my clothes tonight in honor of President Havel, but unfortunately, I forgot my bluejeans.))

I am delighted to have this opportunity to visit the Czech and Slovak Federated Republic, and to see first-hand the remarkable changes taking place here. I always enjoy seeing President Havel, and we 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. They didn't doubt that being **oppressed** is worse than being **dead**. They died -- but they preserved their **honor**."

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 the bitter lesson learned at Munich in 1938, all now agree: **there will be no appeasement this 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 44 years -- electing this man, Vaclav Havel, the first non-communist President of Czechoslovakia since 1950, and elected the legendary Alexander Dubcek to the Presidency of the Federal Parliament. All in the name of democracy and freedom for the Czechoslovak people.

Czechoslovakia has a bright future: new voices speaking out, steering the course of the nation -- as it assumes its rightful place in the new world order -- and in a new emerging Europe, **whole and free.**

The road ahead will be uphill. But I believe in the power of the Czech and Slovak people to meet the challenge -- and to win. For when power lies in the hands of every individual, each with his own broad potential to contribute to the future of your nation, then the future is indeed a bright one.

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
Draft one
November 9, 1990
A:CZECH.TOA

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

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For it was there, a year ago tonight that ~~the nation's~~ largest political rally since the Prague Spring was held. 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. * "We are remembering our predecessors, who did not hesitate to give their lives for what they believed in at that time," ~~a student of the Velvet Revolution said.~~ "They didn't doubt that being oppressed is worse than being dead. They died -- but they preserved their honor."

Your *in World War II*
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To: Speechwriters from: M.K.

Received by a friend of mine from a woman in Prague - written on the day of the Wenceslas speech!

Today is in Czechoslovakia George Bush, the first American president coming to this country. He was speaking in our

Parliament/Congress/ and on Wenceslav Place. I like him very much and I was very pleased his visit/all people of Prague were!/.
Welcome of him was very enthusiastic, but I think he is used on such welcome. everywhere are U.S.A. flags, ^{the} american songs ^{you can listen} are on streets.

He was coming on first ^{in Prague} anniversary of our revolution/17th 11. 1989. All the day are meetings of people, concerts on the streets..

One year and such events, that's incredible.

^{United Army} I understand your feeling, I ^{would like} am afraid as you ^{would} are/not to be war against Iraq. The U.S.A. army in Saudska Arabia cost a lot of money so taxis are going up. But it is necessary to go against agressor and Saddam Husajn is really ^{the} crazy, very ^{the} dangerous man. ^{I mean U.S.A.} You have there nearly 1/4 of million soldiers, in a case of war there could be a lot of dead or hurted men, I am afraid to think about it.

But in a case of money I suppose Saudska Arabia, Japanese and West European countries could share both soldiers and money - I think they do that, but I am not sure how much.