



Historical Crisis Committee

Research Report

TISPCMUNC 2025

Prepared by Winnie, Elisee, Yap, Ethan and Wiz

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
1.1 Head Chair	3
1.2 Co-Chair	3
1.3 Crisis Director	4
1.4 Co-Crisis Director	5
2.0 RESEARCH REPORT OVERVIEW	7
4.1 Crisis ROP and Mechanisms	9
4.2 Individual Reputation	11
4.3 Party Reputation	12
4.4 The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact	12
4.5 Legislations	13
4.6 Democratic Centralism	13
Topic: Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia	15
5.1 Key Terms (Winnie)	15
5.2 Topic Introduction	15
5.3 Historical Legacy	15
5.4 Timeline Up until Now	16
5.5 Key Blocs and Dynamics at Play	17
Warsaw Pact	17
5.6 Key Points of Contention and Differing Perspectives	18
1. Threat to the Communist Ideology	18
2. Economic Concerns	18
6.0 Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMAs)	18
7.0 Further Reading	18
8.0 Bibliography	18

1.0 WELCOME LETTER

1.1 Head Chair

Hi all! Firstly, welcome to the HCC Council of TISPMUNC 2025!

My name is Winnie and I have been doing Model UN since 2017 and have dabbled in Indonesia and UK MUN conferences too. I am from an International Relations background and had recently completed my second masters in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability. I have a strong passion for fashion too so feel free to reach out to them if you wish to chat about anything art (both visual or liberal)!

When it comes to MUN, I am a firm believer that it is a unique experience for each individual. You can begin on your MUN journey for a reason and decide to continue for another - and it's perfectly all right! So if you are a beginner in MUN, do not fret. We will go through this together. Most importantly, I hope that you guys have fun and have a memorable experience. Please do not feel shy to reach out to me if you wish to or have any inquiries.

A tip for beginners preparing for council: this is a research report that is predominantly descriptive in nature and a summary extract of a vast database of resources out there. Preparing the best you can means doing research beyond this report by nitpicking on glossed-over terms and reports. Even better yet, analyze, understand and develop your own understanding towards the topic - both personally and as your delegating country. This will hence allow you to be flexible in your approaches and allows for the best possible council experience throughout!

Email: winniechoong99@gmail.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/yun-ni-choong/>

Instagram: [@yummi_cactii](https://www.instagram.com/yummi_cactii)

1.2 Co-Chair

Welcome to the territory of debate and diplomacy. I am Elisee, and it is an honour to be your co-chair in this Crisis Council.

Since 2023, MUN has served as my first form of debate, public speaking, and networking. This simulation played a huge role towards the growth of many useful skills, and has exceptionally broadened my perspectives, shaping me into who I am today. Thus, I am eager to provide each and everyone of you a remarkable experience, like how every other conference I have attended, done.

In this specialized council, we are given a chance to manipulate history. As we dive back into the past, I encourage each of you to plot, persuade, and engage, because in this council- every voice and action will shape the outcome of our future.

So welcome to Model United Nations for those who are new to MUN, and welcome back, to the rest of the familiar faces! I look forward to meeting you all on the 4th of July, as we strive to make this a one of a kind experience. For those who have any doubts or enquiries, do know I am always here to lend a helping hand! Feel free to approach or contact me through:

Email: eliseelow123@gmail.com

Instagram: @evee_o_o

1.3 Crisis Director

A short intro to your Head Crisis Director, Yap has been in the MUN scene since 2023, specializing exclusively in Crisis councils, no matter as delegate or as crisis director. Most remembered for popularizing the term 'murugan' in crisis, forming a troika with Maria Markus and the procurator general in SUNMUN 2024's SOVNARKOM (do not ask me to cook again), executing the Prime Minister of Japan publicly in EISMUNC25, leading the Soviet Union as Joseph Stalin in NISMUNC 2024, murdering North Korean civilians as Japan in GMUN 2023 (where his draft resolution got stolen) among many others. A recent A-Levels graduate from Sunway College, he would be advancing to take up Economics in Australia soon if everything sails smooth. Outside of MUN, he enjoys writing stories (which may be found on wattpad), drawing manga-styled arts, catching up to anime and wasting his time on gacha games (Arknights and Zenless Zone Zero being his favorites), discussing history, politics and ideology (mainly contemporary Asian, American and European History and Politics) among other things. You may often find him sifting through manga shops or your local cosplay convention as well.

P.S: May be appeased by buying a Chinese drink known as 'mixue' or an Albanian bunker.

P.P.S: He does not play a tank game known as 'war thunder', contrary to belief

Email: yapsoonyoung@gmail.com

1.4 Co-Crisis Director

Hello delegates! I'm Ethan and I'll be one of your co crisis directors. I've been actively participating in MUN conferences since late 2022 and have only joined crisis councils either as a delegate or as crisis director (we don't talk about that one IPC exception). Throughout that time, I have done a good bit of tomfoolery such as pissing everyone off in EOSMUN 22, organising a full out invasion of North Korea in GMUN 23, attempting to kidnap a certain individual 7 separate times in TLMUN 23 (I failed), killing off Lenin in TanarataMUN 23's SOVNARKOM, making a very overengineered ship to hunt down some terrorists in EOSMUN 23, leaking all the 'appropriately named' Soviet directives in NISMUNC 24, being too revisionist in TLMUN 24 and causing an Israeli nuke plane to crash into a Soviet cathedral in EISMUNC 25. I recently finished my A Levels from UCSI College and now I am super unemployed and have nothing better to do. Outside of MUN, I'm a very boring person but I will engage in conversations related to math, science and humanities.

P.S: I also don't play War Thunder.

1.5 Co-Crisis Director

Good Morning, good afternoon, good evening and good night to you delegates depending on when youre reading this research report, I'm Wiz and I'll be one of you're co-crisis director for TISPCMUN 2025. I have been in the mun scene for nearly 3 years now and I mainly specialised in crisis councils both as a delegate and as a member of the board of dais, and you many recognised some of my past experninces such as successfully liberating the whole of Ukraine in Nismunc 2023, using chemical weapons on my capital as Afghanistan in sunmun 2023, and finally making the EEC a buttload of money through good-old market capitalism in TLMUN 2024 and Eismunc 2025.

I have just recently finished my A-Levels from Tenby Ipoh and is currently unemployed until further noticed. As for my interest, I love to waste my time bingeing true crime documentaries on tv and or grinding on my multiple gacha games (I swear I'm not a gambling addict). I really look forward to meeting all you and if any of you guys have any questions then feel free to contact, I promise I'll reply immediately.($\geq \nabla \leq$)♡

P.S: I'm the only CD here that has under 100 hours on War Thunder and I intended to keep it that way.

Email: wilson66634@gmail.com

2.0 RESEARCH REPORT OVERVIEW

This Research Report serves as a foundational guide for HCC delegates of TISPCMUN 2025.. Essential context, information, and a range of perspectives on both council topics are provided.

Delegates are encouraged to utilize this report as a springboard to develop informed, innovative, and realistic ideas that you may decide to include in your Position Paper or speeches, Working Papers, and Draft Resolutions during the conference. Delegates may seek inspiration from relevant international frameworks, and sample strategies already in place. You can attempt to identify gaps, build upon existing initiatives, and tailor your proposals according to your assigned country's policies, position, and capacity. This will be crucial in ensuring that the debate remains grounded in factual understanding while promoting productive and cooperative discourse.

In preparation for the conference, delegates should thoroughly review the data, case studies, and suggested solutions outlined in this report. However, do note that this Research Report shall only serve as the basis of your research. The Board of Dais highly recommends delegates to conduct your own external research and also utilize the *Further Reading* materials that are provided at the end of this document. Ultimately, the Research Report aims to provide preliminary guidance in fostering constructive dialogue among member states that can lead to practical, sustainable outcomes by the end of the conference.

3.0 COUNCIL INTRODUCTION

The Prague Spring is one of the most pivotal events in modern Czechoslovakian History and is one of the most important events in the history of the Eastern Bloc and even the Cold War as a whole. In the Historical Crisis Council (HCC) for TISPCMUNC'25, delegates will take up the role of various Czech politicians relevant to the Prague Spring, each advancing their own goals and interests, navigating themselves through the tumultuous months to come.

Firstly, in Model United Nations a crisis is defined as an event in which delegates will need to find a solution immediately, and their actions can be done via submitting directives and legislations in this case. Crisis councils operate differently to their counterparts, conventional councils, as they allow delegates to take action on the spot rather than drafting a resolution that may be effective after a certain period of time. In crisis councils, delegates will have to adapt to the ever-progressing timeframe where new issues and conflicts are introduced throughout that period of time in history, thus adding a new challenge to the committee. As mentioned before, in this council, delegates are various high-ranking Czechoslovak politicians, each having different ideologies, goals, influence and power, hoping to achieve them as Czech politics faces a great change.

Starting Date: 4 February 1968

As the Czechoslovakian economy stagnates to become one of the slowest growing economies even in the Communist bloc, there is mounting pressure for political reform. The 60's marked an era of great social and political upheaval. After Stalin's passing in 1953, small-scale reforms have taken place in several Eastern European Nations as Hardline Communist leaders get removed from power or pass away. This is most evident in Poland and Hungary, where the former oversaw the easing of political and economic control and the latter had a full scale revolution in 1956, which was crushed and replaced with a more moderate Communist leader. Despite these winds of change, Czechoslovakia has changed little, still retaining its Centrally Planned economy and retaining totalitarian means of control and repression. The shadow of Stalin and Czechoslovakia's first Stalinist President Klement Gottwald seems to have never disappeared.

As popular pressure continues to drive Hardline President Antonin Novotny into unpopularity, he still adamantly clings onto power, refusing to leave. However, the ascension of Alexander Dubcek as First Secretary of the Communist Party holds a clear message: The push for reform, both within the Party and within the population is very strong. While this means salvation to reformists, others might be less welcoming. Is this a potential deviation and abandonment of Socialism? What will the Soviet Union and its allies say about this? How will they react? What will be the implications? These are all up to the delegates to navigate these tumultuous months of

Czechoslovak politics. Will the reforms survive and last long? Or will the hardliners manage to halt it and put Czechoslovakia back on the path of hardline ideology?

3.1 Crisis ROP and Mechanisms

Crisis councils are where time moves linearly as compared to being static in normal UN councils. In a crisis council, everything a delegate chooses to do, from their speeches to voting patterns to directives, can affect the dynamics and outcome of the council. Procedurally, the rules of procedure of this council will follow the [Malaysian Standardized Harvard MUN \(HMUN\) Rules of Procedure](#), the details of which will be further clarified if necessary during the first committee session. However, there may be modifications to fit the council's needs as the chairs and crisis team see fit.

The second essential part of the workings of a crisis council is directives. Directives are instructions received from delegates as to what they wish to do. A good piece of advice would be to ask yourself some of the following questions:

- What do I want to do?
This ensures clarity in the directive's purpose. A vague or unfocused directive will be harder for the crisis directors to implement and may lead to unintended consequences.
- When do I want to do it?
A well-timed action can maximize impact, while a poorly timed one may be ineffective or even counterproductive.
- Who is carrying out the action? (Naming relevant agencies, if they are involved, is recommended)
Specifying the responsible actors ensures feasibility and accountability. Identifying relevant government bodies, military units, or international agencies helps the crisis directors understand who is executing the directive and whether it is within their capacity.
- How exactly is the action being done?
A directive should include clear steps for execution. A vague order like "promote economic reforms" lacks substance, whereas "promote economic reforms by deregulating markets and easing price controls" provides specificity.
- Have I included any figures if it is a directive relating to resource allocation or economic reform? (Make sure they are realistic to what Czechoslovakia had at that time)
Including realistic numbers prevents directives from becoming overpowered or implausible. Crisis directors will use historical context to determine whether a directive is feasible, so having accurate figures are important.

➤ Do I have the legal capacity to do it?

Just because something is desirable doesn't mean it is legally or politically possible. Directives must align with the powers of the delegate's position, preventing unrealistic or illegal actions that the crisis directors would reject.

In summary, a well-written directive would have fulfilled the criteria of 5W1H -

1. What - the description of the plan, project, or action;
2. Who - who is involved in the said plan, project, or action;
3. Where - where would the said event take place;
4. Why - why is there a need for the said event to occur;
5. When - if the event is time sensitive, description of as to when the event will take place, and if it occurs in stages, to be described in detail;
6. How - the description of the plan, project, or action. This should also encompass the previous questions above.

Additionally, a crisis directive should also take into account these important details and factors:

- Is the directive physically possible given the time and resources available?
A directive must be grounded in reality. If it demands actions that would take months to execute in a situation unfolding over days, or if it exceeds available resources, the crisis directors may reject it or modify it significantly.
- If the directive requires personnel and monetary funding, then what is the exact amount needed?
Precision strengthens a directive's credibility. Crisis directors need numbers to assess feasibility—whether it's police deployments, supply shipments, or financial allocations. Vague estimates make directives weaker and more prone to rejection or revision.
- Does the directive politically make sense and benefit your character?
*Even if an action is feasible, it must align with the delegate's political position and strategic interests. A directive that weakens the delegate's standing or contradicts their past actions might be met with opposition or backlash within the committee. **You are able to submit directives that do not align with your political position or that may weaken you, however, you will face the consequences of your directive.***
- Does your character have the legal power and jurisdiction to accomplish the directive?
Delegates must operate within their historical and institutional authority. Overstepping legal boundaries (e.g., a politician declaring a state of emergency without government approval) can lead to crisis complications, backlash, or outright dismissal by the crisis team.

****Disclaimer: Any mistakes found in the directive such as the lack of any key information or the inclusion of any false information can and will be used against you by the crisis directors.****

In this crisis, directives will be vetted by the crisis directors who will read them and determine how it would play out concerning the current scenario and with the directives of your fellow delegates. A good tip would be to ensure the directive is as detailed as possible to ensure the crisis directors aren't able to find loopholes in them that they can exploit. Also, consider the relevance of the directive to the overall crisis world, hence it's important also to justify it in your directive. Otherwise, the crisis directors may consider the directive irrelevant to the crisis if it looks as such and may either fail the directive or skip processing if there's a severe backlog in directive processing. **If the delegate chooses to not send any directives, such delegates will not be free from consequences faced by both the crisis timeline and grading performance throughout the council.**

Updates on how each delegate's directives have played out will either be messaged personally or via news updates that will be broadcast to the entire council if the directive affects the crisis timeline significantly. However, commentary on the delegate's performance will be available after the conference.

More information on how directives and the crisis work will be conveyed to delegates closer to the date of the conference.

3.2 Individual Reputation

The individual reputation system is a system developed by the crisis directors to allow delegates gauge their character's reputation among the people of Czechoslovakia individually and help Crisis Directors process directives more accurately. This system will range from 0-10, where 10 is the best achievable reputation score. Each delegate will receive their individual scores in their character profiles and any speeches or actions made by delegates will in return, affect their individual reputation scores. Delegates could increase their individual reputation scores by submitting more 'popular' directives and appealing to the common people. A high individual reputation will mean that the people have more faith and confidence within the delegate and are more likely to conform with their policies and proposals, which may have a higher chance of success. Directive passing may also be influenced by their individual reputation. Similarly, if their individual reputation score is low, people are less confident and supportive of the delegate and are less likely to conform with policies and proposals made by the delegate.

The Crisis Directors will not give an exact score, but may periodically update delegates a specific range if they submit a directive to do so.

3.3 Party Reputation

The Party reputation system is a unique system developed by the crisis directors to demonstrate what is the standing and the reputation of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia as a whole among the people. Similar to the individual reputation system, this system will range from 0-10, where 10 is the best achievable reputation score. This is influenced by the speeches and the directives delegates make, as well as the legislations passed as a whole, which will, in return, affect the reputation of the current Czechoslovak Government as a whole amongst the general populace. A persistently low Party reputation would mean that there is widespread dissatisfaction with the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and its governance of the country, and may lead to repercussions such as riots, protests, or worse, an all out revolution seeking to overthrow the Communist government. A very high Party reputation may imply that there is a great deal of stability in the country and people generally have some hope and faith in the government, which makes the passing of legislation and directive much smoother and easier. A very low party reputation score may prompt intervention from the Soviet Union as well, either directly or indirectly. Similarly, an intervention from the Soviet Union may occur with a high party reputation depending on how this high reputation was achieved.

The Crisis Directors may subtly hint on the current Party Reputation in crisis updates, and may show the entire council when they see fit.

3.4 The Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact

As one of the main members of the Warsaw Pact and a part of the Soviet-controlled COMINFORM, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is closely linked with the Soviet Union, which is its closest 'ally', having a key role in dictating its foreign, economic and social policy. Like its fellow Warsaw Pact members, Czechoslovakia heavily relies on the Soviet Union as its main trade, economic and political partner, and it naturally has a very big stake in the internal affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. As proven with the case of Hungary in 1956, an outright break with the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet sphere of influence was met with brutal suppression, and the attempt eventually failed. However, the Soviets seem to be more open, albeit wary of more small-scale attempted reforms, like the Polish October and the De-satellization of Romania.

As the turbulent winds of change blow towards Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, as the 'big brother' of the fraternal Eastern European nations, will always be keeping a close eye on the internal situation of Czechoslovakia. Thus, be aware that the Soviets may act in Czechoslovakia if they feel the need to.

Comrade Leonid Brezhnev will always be watching.

3.5 Legislations

- Essentially functions as a council wide directive/draft resolution.
- Does not rely on Democratic Centralism during voting to introduce; voting takes place on the spot and is not pre decided.
- Format is within this document: [Czechoslovak Legislation Format](#)
- Introduced by introducing a motion and stating “Motion to introduce a legislation by Comrade X”
- Voting is then conducted to decide whether or not it is introduced, *if it is not, then continue with debate as normal.*
- An amount of time, per the Chair’s discretion, is then given for the proposers to present and explain the contents and issues the legislation aims to solve.
- The decree is then voted on, to decide if the National Assembly will put the legislation into place, **this vote will rely on Democratic Centralism.**

4.6 Democratic Centralism

While democratic centralism comprises more than just voting procedure, within this document, voting procedure is the only section democratic centralism concerns.

To summarise democratic centralism (in its application in voting), it simply means, the minority must follow the majority, this applies in Communist decision making, the minority must follow the direction the majority votes in.

To vote by Democratic Centralism:

- *All members of the council must leave the room, with the Chair present with them.*
- *A vote is then held to see how many are for, and how many are against the subject being voted upon.*
 - *If a majority votes for, all council members must vote for in the next section.*
 - *If a majority votes against, all council members must vote against in the next section.*
 - ***NOTE: THE COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST NEVER DIRECTLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS VOTE HAPPENED, AND THAT THE ONLY OFFICIAL VOTE HELD IS IN THE NEXT SECTION.***
- *All members of the council will then return to the room, and the Chair will announce a vote.*
- *The entire council must either vote for or against, unanimously, reflecting the decision made earlier outside the council room.*

- *Failure to comply with Democratic Centralism could result in temporary exile to a prison camp (sent outside of the room for 5 minutes with their vote disregarded) or forcefully made to comply (vote counted per the correct decision decided earlier regardless of having voted differently).*

4.0 Council Background

4.1 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia

Since the early 1960s, the Czech economy had been deteriorating, and cracks were emerging in the communist consensus. In response to this, the leader of the USSR, Brezhnev, intervened by replacing Novotný who was very unpopular, with Alexander Dubček as the new leader of Czechoslovakia.

The *Prague Spring*, led by Alexander Dubček, started taking place on 5th January. There has been talk about reforming communism into a more democratic and humane socialism, enabling the public to be more involved in the government and, hopefully, increase support for communism.

As of the date, 4 February 1968, there has been progress on reforming communism, including: replacing hardline communist leaders with more reform-oriented allies, beginning to ease restrictions on media and censorship, encouraging more open discussions and debates among the public regarding the political, economical and cultural reforms, reducing secret police powers, yet all while maintaining Czechoslovakia's loyalty to Moscow.

4.2 Key Timeline

1946, May: Communist Party of Czechoslovakia achieves major victory in elections, forming a coalition government and becoming the biggest party in the Parliament. Communist Party leader Klement Gottwald becomes Prime Minister under Non-Communist President Edvard Benes.

1947: Stalin summons Gottwald to Moscow, ordering him to reject the Marshall Plan and radicalize in tactics.

1948, February: Prime Minister Klement Gottwald takes over the coalition government, ousting Edvard Benes, establishing the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, proclaiming a "People's Democracy".

1948, May 9: The Ninth of May Constitution was put in place, declaring Czechoslovakia a "People's Democracy", modelled after the Soviet constitution imposed by Stalin. Benes was forced to resign and died in September.

1948-1952: Under President Gottwald's direction, Czechoslovakia is "Stalinized", industries were nationalised, shifting to a planned economy, authority became completely centered on the hands of the Communist Party. Arts, free expression, and dissidence became brutally suppressed. Soviet-styled agricultural collectivization and mass industrialization projects were carried out.

1952: Slansky Trials take place, 14 senior party members were charged and executed in Stalin-inspired show trials. Further purges were launched, millions were expelled from the Party or were affected.

1953, 5 March: Soviet leader Joseph Stalin passes away.

1953, 14 March: Czechoslovak President Klement Gottwald dies after heading to Stalin's funeral. His associate Antonin Zapotocky succeeds him as President while Antonin Novotny becomes First Secretary of the Communist Party.

1953, June: Workers in Plzen stage a strike against government policies, many were killed by authorities.

1955, May 14: The Warsaw Pact was established.

1956, February 26: Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev condemned Stalin in his "Secret Speech", starting a wave of "De-Stalinization".

1956, October: Hungary erupts in revolution. Soviet troops were deployed to crush them.

1957: Antonin Zapotocky dies, leaving Antonin Novotný to become president of Czechoslovakia, refusing De-Stalinization and instead tightening his grip on power.

1960, 11 January: Novotny establishes a new constitution, declaring a "victory of socialism", further clamping down on civil liberties.

1963: Jozef Lenart becomes Prime Minister and pledges to tackle the slow economic growth and stagnation faced by Czechoslovakia.

1965: Senior economist Ota Sik proposes the "New Economic Model", introducing limited market reforms, wage differentials, reducing economic planning and lowering regulations. This model was approved by the Party, much to Novotny's dismay.

1967, January: Reforms were supposed to be implemented. Widespread resistance came from Slovaks, students, economists, and writers. Novotny and his supporters reacted with brute force.

1967, October: Reformist politician Alexander Dubcek wins the support of many members of the party and the general public, Novotny appeals to the Soviets for help.

1967, December: Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev withdrew his support to Antonin Novotny.

1968, January 5: Alexander Dubček replaced Novotný as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

1968, February 4: Starting date of the council.

4.3 Notable Dynamics at Play

Warsaw Pact

A political and military alliance established on May 14, 1955 between the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries including Albania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and German Democratic Republic (East Germany). This alliance was seen as a counterbalance to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Soviets knew that the US was preoccupied with its disastrous crusade in Vietnam and would not, in any case, do anything to interfere with its “zone of influence,” according to the Cold War gentleman’s agreement in place since Soviet tanks put an end to the Berlin uprising of 1953.

Reformist Communist Bloc - Within Czech

Led by Ota Šik, in September 1964 a group of reformers within the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia forced Novotný to accept a new set of economic principles, replacing the country’s rigid command economy with a mixed economy. Despite popular support for economic reformation, Novotný ultimately only implemented a few of them, which meant that Czechoslovakia’s broader economic problems persisted.

The Rise of the Slovaks - Within Czech

Novotný’s attempt to quell the Slovaks’ call for greater autonomy resulted in the Slovak leaders turning against him when the Soviets declined his initiation to eliminate them, further eroding any support he still had. This eventually gave rise to the unanimously election of the Slovak leader, Alexander Dubček.

This led to new reformist ideas involving not only economic reforms but also the democratization of Czechoslovak political life. Among its most important points were the promotion of Slovakia to full parity within a new Czechoslovak federation, long overdue industrial and agricultural reforms, a revised constitution that would guarantee civil rights and liberties, and the complete rehabilitation of all citizens whose rights had been infringed in the past. This resulted in rapid formation of alternative forms of political organisation, ranging from

democratic parties to human rights groups and religious parties, much to the horror of the Soviets and Warsaw Pact. The shifts of political structure and opinions of the Czechs will eventually contribute to the infamous quote, where what Dubček was offering, according to international opinion, was “socialism with a human face.”

Politics Around the World

That same spring...

1. the Polish security forces were busy crushing student unrest
2. The French authorities were attempting to suppress running battles in Paris and national strikes,
3. The assassination of Martin Luther King galvanized broad anti-Vietnam War protests in the US
4. Meanwhile in Moscow, Yuri Andropov, former Soviet ambassador to Hungary 1954–1957 and then head of the KGB, was working together with Defense Minister Andrei Grechko on the “concrete military measures” that would become Operation Danube once the decision to invade Czechoslovakia was taken on August 18.

4.4 Key Points of Contention and Differing Perspectives

1. Threat to the Communist Ideology

Many hardliners were disturbed over the recent reforms in Czechoslovakia as they feared the Prague Spring may be the beginning of going down the road similar to the leader of Yugoslavia, who underwent the Tito-Stalin split during 1948, and Romania, where declarations of dissatisfaction with the Warsaw Pact during 1964. It was essential to preserve communism, and to eradicate potential means of widespread rebellion against communism, hence these nasty ideas had to be condemned.



2. Economic Concerns

Further spiking concerns were encouragement of discussions regarding shifting away from Czechoslovakia's centralized economic system by introducing elements of market mechanisms. This may lead to Western trade and investment, potentially causing economic dependency on the West, permanently cutting off ties with the Soviet Union, which would dishearten the hardliners.

5.0 Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMAs)

1. What can you do for the survival of your political party?
2. What is the end goal and agenda of your individual and political party?
 - a. With historical events in hindsight, how do you plan to achieve this goal?
3. Why should your oppositions listen to you and come to a compromise?

6.0 Further Reading

1. [The 1968 invasion: When hope was crushed by Soviet tanks | Radio Prague International](#)
2. [Prague Spring, 1968](#)
3. [When Soviet-Led Forces Crushed the 1968 'Prague Spring' | HISTORY](#)
4. [“Do Friends Come to Visit with Tanks?” – Reactions to the 1968 Invasion of Czechoslovakia, 55 Years Later](#)
5.  [Why The Soviet Union Invaded Their Ally Czechoslovakia In 1968](#)
6.  [The Warsaw Pact's Invasion of Czechoslovakia](#)

7.0 Bibliography

History.state.gov. (n.d.). *Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations*. Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian. Retrieved June 16, 2025, from <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/soviet-invasion-czechoslavlavia>

Keleher, E. P., & King, R. D. (n.d.). *Soviet Union Invades Czechoslovakia*. EBSCO. Retrieved June 18, 2025, from <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/political-science/soviet-union-invades-czechoslovakia>

Prague Spring. (n.d.). Britannica. Retrieved June 18, 2025, from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Prague-Spring>