

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 212

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 the present day Czech Republic and the present day Slovak Republic proclaimed their independence in the common state of the Republic of Czechoslovakia;

Whereas between 1939 and 1945, Nazi Germany 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, on November 17, 1939, in response to widespread student demonstrations, Czech institutions of higher learning were closed by the Nazis, many students were taken to concentration camps, and 9 representatives of the student movement were executed;

Whereas the Moscow-directed Communists took over the Government of Czechoslovakia in February 1948;

Whereas troops from Warsaw Pact countries invaded Czechoslovakia in August 1968, ousted the reformist leadership 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 Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic have established vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political systems based upon freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices;

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

Whereas the people of the United States have an affinity with the peoples of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic and regard them as trusted and important partners and allies: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes the 20th 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;

7 (2) commemorates, with the Slovak Republic
8 and the Czech Republic, the 20th anniversary of the
9 Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, which under-
10 scores the significance and value of reclaimed free-
11 dom and the dignity of individual citizens;

12 (3) commends the peoples of the Slovak Repub-
13 lic and the Czech Republic for their remarkable
14 achievements over the past 20 years in building free,
15 democratic, and prosperous societies;

16 (4) appreciates the contribution of the Slovak
17 Republic and the Czech Republic as members of the
18 North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Euro-

1 pean Union to the promotion and defense of com-
2 mon values of freedom, democracy, and liberty
3 around the world;

4 (5) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and close
5 cooperation that have existed between the United
6 States and the Slovak Republic and the Czech Re-
7 public; and

8 (6) extends the warmest congratulations and
9 best wishes to the people of the Slovak Republic and
10 the people of the Czech Republic for a peaceful,
11 prosperous, and successful future.

Passed the House of Representatives November 19,
2009.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Expressing the sense of Congress on the occasion of the 20th 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 Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.