

SONKALMUN'26

HCC

Study Guide

Agenda Item:

The Ideological Conflict Between the
USSR and the USA During the Cold War:
The Case of the Prague Spring

Under-Secretary
General: Ali Aliç



Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates

It's my ultimate pleasure to welcome you as the secretary general of the very first edition of ŞÖNKALMUN. We as the ŞÖNKALMUN'26 Team are very thrilled to see our participants in our conference since each and every member of this team showed an extraordinary effort to organize the best potential conference. All our efforts are aimed at providing our participants with an enjoyable time. We can't wait to see the result of our unbelievable effort, sleepless nights, tears and unbelievable team work.

In ŞÖNKALMUN we expect our delegates to speak up, raise their voice for those who can't, examine and carry out the problems of others. This is not just an event. We are aiming to raise awareness about our global problems. The agenda items of this year were selected with great care and attention to detail for give our delegates to opportunity of speak about the problems we need to be worried about. We highly encourage our delegates to defend their ideas and not afraid of express themselves. No matter your country or your role everyone's ideas are important and worth to listen. In events like this it's true that everyone have their own ideas and everyone try to support their ideas but it doesn't mean that they are judging your ideas. Mun is about collaborate with communities and find common solutions. Remember the problems you talk about this committee are real problems in daily life.

In order to achieve the conference's objectives, the delegates' contributions are just as important as our own efforts. This conference will be meaningful when you actively participate, share your ideas, and strive to gain something from the experience. My words are not sufficient to tell you how excited we are to see you in our event. We are planing this 3 day for a long time to give you unforgettable experience. The friendships we've formed here, the debating skills we've developed, and the diplomatic solutions you've found form the core of these events. Speaking for all the ŞÖNKALMUN team I want to thank all of you for not leaving us alone in our journey.

Best Regards

Asya K kce

Secretary-General

Table of Contents

Committee Introduction:	5
Major Parties Involved:	5
Reform:.....	5
Soviet Union/Powers:.....	7
United States of America:	7
Events/Subjects of Significance:	8
• Warsaw Pact Invasion	8
• Prague Spring	8
• The KGB	8
Individuals of Note/Allocations:	9
Reform.....	9
Soviet Powers	9
U.S.A.....	9
Alexander Dubček.....	10
Ludvík Svoboda	11
Oldřich Černík.....	12
Josef Smrkovský.....	13
Ota Šik.....	14
Zdeněk Mlynář	15
Jiří Hájek	16
Leonid Brezhnev	17
Alexei Kosygin.....	18
Nikolai Podgorny	19
Andrei Gromyko.....	20
Yuri Andropov	21
Dmitry Ustinov.....	22
Mikhail Suslov	23
Ivan Yakubovsky.....	24

Lyndon B. Johnson.....	25
Dean Rusk	26
Richard Helms.....	27

Agenda Item: The Ideological Conflict Between the USSR and the USA During the Cold War: The Case of the Prague Spring

Committee Introduction:

HCC (Historical Crisis Committee) is a committee that offers delegates the opportunity to relive the political atmosphere of the period by addressing significant events from the past. Delegates manage crises, make strategic decisions, and can influence the historical process by adopting the perspectives of the characters they represent. The committee takes place in Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1968, during the height of the ideological competition between the USA and the USSR during the Cold War. The Prague Spring, which began with Alexander Dubček's democratic reforms, became a serious threat to the Soviets. During this process, the KGB took strategic steps to protect Soviet interests and limit the influence of the CIA. The CIA, on the other hand, was trying to increase Western influence through diplomacy, intelligence, and propaganda. At the SONKALMUN'26 conference, delegates are expected to make strategic decisions in the face of the crises and produce political solutions that will shape the country's future and the balance of power in the Cold War.

Major Parties Involved:

Reform:

The reform side in the Prague Spring consisted of leaders and noteworthy individuals in Czechoslovakia who wanted to modernize and liberalize the current regime of socialism. Rather than abandoning it completely the reformist group had ideas to revolutionize socialism for the better that they believed in. The reform group and the reforms were mainly led by Alexander Dubcek, who was the first secretary of the communist party. The reformist groups

ideals and goals included:

- Freedom of speech (ending censorship in all sources)
- Extensive political freedom (reduction of secret police groups)
- Decentralization from government (less intervention and control from Moscow)
- Economic reforms (strengthening and boosting Czechoslovak koruna)
- Greater acceptance and openness to the west

The reformist ideals were backed up and supported by a variety of politically powerful individuals and different groups such as but not limited to, students, journalists, and writers. The reform posed a massive risk of both loss of authority and power for the Soviet Union. Reformist ideals would also put the rest of the Eastern Bloc at Jeopardy for the Soviet Union. The reformist party was favored by the United States and the F.B.I. The United States favored reformists because they posed a threat to the Soviet Union. So although the U.S. didn't majorly intervene between the reformists and the Soviet Union they did support reforms.

Soviet Union/Powers:

The Soviet Union consisted mainly of the leaders at the time. This group wanted to conserve strict authority and control over all Eastern Bloc countries. With Dubcek's reformist ideas their authority was at risk of being reduced, this also had a risk of spreading to other Eastern Bloc countries such as Poland, Hungary and East Germany. This group had thoughts of negotiation with the reformist party to not have collateral results however those plans were mostly sidelined and military action was taken instead. The individuals in the Soviet Union were each responsible for different things within the invasion of Prague during the Warsaw Pact Invasion. After the Soviet Powers invaded Prague Dubcek and some of his companions were taken to Moscow to not let them intervene with the invasion. Eventually the Warsaw Pact Invasion was victorious and the Prague Spring ended by the force of Soviet Powers in August of 1968. Afterwards the Soviet Union tried to revert and erase the changes made by reformists.

United States of America:

The United States was never in full military involvement in the Warsaw Pact invasion nor the Prague Spring in general. The United States devoted their military power to the simultaneously ongoing Vietnam war, which eventually they lost. Although no military involvement could be observed the United States was in support of the reformist ideals and reformist party. The reformist changes aligned more with the country's policy's and more so had a chance to harm the Soviet Union's authority and power over the Eastern Bloc. The United States closely monitored both the Soviet Union's and the Reform group's actions in order to strategise.

Events/Subjects of Significance:

- **Warsaw Pact**

- The Warsaw Pact is a military and political alliance between the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc countries. It was established on May 14th 1955 after West Germany joined NATO. It was declared non-existent on July 1st 1991 following the collapse of the communist regime in the Eastern Bloc. It was signed in Warsaw which is the capital of Poland. Its main intent was for the Soviet Union to be allowed and justified to station troops in member nations. This eventually allowed the Warsaw Pact invasion to take place and troops stormed into Prague, ending the Prague Spring in 1968.

- **Warsaw Pact Invasion**

- The Warsaw Pact invasion was the military operation that ended the reforms done by Alexander Dubcek in Prague. The Warsaw Pact invasion was justified by the Warsaw Pact allowing the Soviet Union to use and station troops in member nations. It was between the 20th and 21st of August. It included thousands of soldiers, tanks and other military forces. Not long after Dubcek and some of his companions were taken to Moscow.

- **Prague Spring**

- The Prague Spring is a duration of approximately 7 months where Alexander Dubcek was conducting democratic reforms in Czechoslovakia which went against Soviet ideals and threatened the Soviet Union's authority and power. During the spring many economic, liberal, social reforms were done. It started in January of 1968 and ended in August of 1968. The Prague Spring's effects were attempted and reversed after the Spring ended. It ended when the Warsaw Pact invasion happened.

- **The KGB**

- The KGB was the main security, intelligence and secret police agency in the Soviet Union, it was active from 1954 to 1991.

Individuals of Note/Allocations:

Reform

Alexander Dubček – First Secretary of the Communist Party; main architect of reforms.

Ludvík Svoboda – President of Czechoslovakia.

Oldřich Černík – Prime Minister supporting reform.

Josef Smrkovský – Reformist leader and parliamentary chairman.

Ota Šik – Economist pushing economic liberalization.

Zdeněk Mlynář – Key reform ideologue who helped design the Action Programme

Jiří Hájek – Foreign Minister who defended Czechoslovakia internationally after the invasion

Soviet Powers

Leonid Brezhnev – General Secretary of the Soviet Union.

Alexei Kosygin – Soviet Premier.

Nikolai Podgorny – Chairman of the Presidium.

Andrei Gromyko – Soviet Foreign Minister.

Yuri Andropov – Head of the KGB.

Dmitry Ustinov – Influential defense figure in Soviet military leadership

Mikhail Suslov – Chief ideological authority of the Communist Party

Ivan Yakubovsky – Commander of the Warsaw Pact forces

U.S.A

Lyndon B. Johnson – President of the USA in 1968

Dean Rusk – US Secretary of State

Richard Helms – Director of the CIA

Alexander Dubček

Alexander Dubček, who was born on 27th of November 1921 and died on 7 of November 1992, served as the First Secretary of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (making him the leader of Czechoslovakia) from January 1968 to April 1969. He was the main architect of the reforms and the projects done in Czechoslovakia during the Prague Spring, however after the Warsaw Pact invasion his efforts were reversed.

He is associated with the slogan "Socialism with a human face", Dubček had made efforts towards economic and cultural liberalization in Czechoslovakia. Reforms were opposed by the Soviet Union and conservative individuals inside the party who benefited from the Stalinist economy. At one point Dubček along with other government officials were kidnapped and held hostage by Soviet forces. After many efforts from Soviet powers such as the Warsaw Pact invasion and Soviet troops occupying the country, eventually Dubček was forced to resign as party head in April 1969, and was succeeded by Gustáv Husák. This pointed towards the end of the Prague Spring.

During the Velvet Revolution in 1989, Dubček served as the Chairman of the federal Czechoslovak parliament and competed for the presidency with Václav Havel. At the time of his death in an automobile crash in 1992, Dubček remained an important political figure. Many saw him as the destined future president of newly-formed Slovakia.

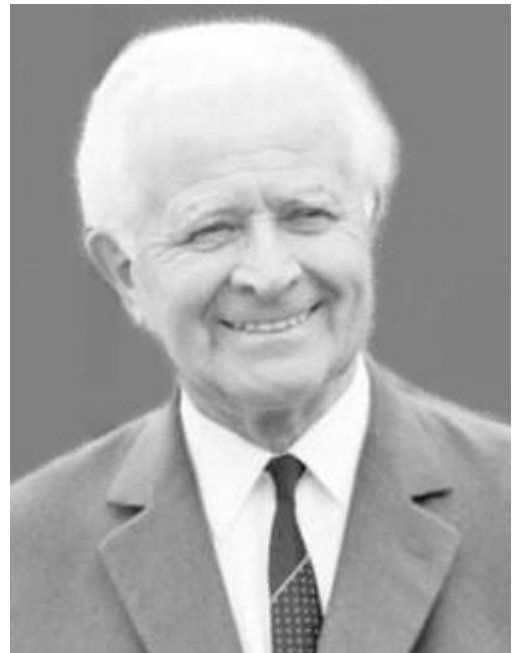


Ludvík Svoboda

Ludvík Svoboda was born on the 25th of November 1895 and died on the 20th of September 1979.

Svoboda was a Czech general and politician. He fought in both World War 1 and World War 2, for which he was deemed a national hero and he was the president of Czechoslovakia from 1968 to 1975.

In 1968, with the recommendation of Alexander Dubcek he became the president of Czechoslovakia. He was an acceptable candidate to be the president for both Slovak and Czech citizens.



Svoboda was supportive of the reforms led by Dubcek.

Svoboda warned against major conflicts which may have arisen if in the case of military response to the Warsaw Pact Invasion and signed a pact to prevent a situation like that. He also travelled to Moscow when Alexander Dubcek was kidnapped to secure Dubcek's and other reformists' release. Svoboda threatened Brezhnev with suicide if Dubcek was not released. However ultimately he was forced to accept Soviet Powers and occupation which eventually led to the end of the reform movement.

Oldřich Černík

Oldrich Cernik was born on the 21st of October 1921 and died on the 19th of October 1994. Cernik was a communist Czech politician who was the prime minister of Czechoslovakia from the 8th of April 1968 to the 28th of January 1970.

A party official and well-known politician, Cernik was an avid supporter of the Prague Spring reforms led by Alexander Dubcek. In August 1968 he was forced to go to Moscow, Soviet Union along with other politicians.

When he returned he asked the Czech people to cooperate with the Soviet Union while also promising to continue reforms. After Alexander Dubcek was stripped of his position, Cernik publicly distanced himself from his prior actions and support towards reforms and reformist actions. However this wasn't enough to prevent him from being forced out as prime minister in 1970.

He attempted to come back into the political field after the end of the communist regime in the early 1990s. In 1994, he survived a life threatening car accident; not long after he died from cardiac arrest in Prague, Czechoslovakia.



Josef Smrkovský

Josef Smrkovský was born on the 26th of February 1911 and died on the 15th of January 1974. Smrkovsky was a Czech politician and a member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia reformist group during the 1968 Prague Spring.

Smrkovsky had made efforts towards the reform in 1968 in a special way. Smrkovsky's public announcement called "What Lies Ahead" at the end of January 1968 proved to have a major effect on Alexander Dubcek's election as First Secretary.

Smrkovsky was designated as chairman of the National Assembly in April 1968, and as a talented politician, he was one of the most popular of the era.

He was in support of the reforms, but was also a believer of a communist ideology, and continued to support the constitutionally guaranteed leading role of the communist party in the state.



Ota Šik

Ota Šik was born on the 11th of September 1919 and died on the 22nd of August 2004. Šik was a Czech politician and an economist. He was a prominent figure in the Prague Spring.

After Dubček became the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, Šik was made deputy prime minister in April of 1968. He was the architect of the economic segment of Dubček's reforms and had mass influence and effect over them.

He claimed that if his ideas and projects were carried out Czechoslovakia could be prosperous. However they were never fully in operation due to the Warsaw Pact Invasion in August of 1968.

Šik was on holiday in Yugoslavia when the tanks entered Prague, after the invasion he did not return to Prague for a while. He had propaganda against him that he was an agent of the United States.



Zdeněk Mlynář

Zdenek Mlynar was born on the 22nd of June 1930 and died on the 15th of April 1997. Mlynar was a Czech communist lawyer and politician. Mlynar was the secretary of the central committee of the communist party of Czechoslovakia during the 1968 Prague Spring.



Mlynar's political manifesto called "Towards a Democratic Political

Organization" was released at the height of the 1968 Prague Spring. It provided a theoretical reform framework of the Prague Spring. Alongside this Mlynar also wrote a detailed account of Prague in the form of an autobiography.

In cooperation with his colleagues, he was keen on redefining Czechoslovakia's role within the eastern bloc and reconsidering the domestic role of the Communist Party, especially as earlier constitutional changes had already begun to move away from its characterization as an "instrument of dictatorship."

Jiří Hájek

Jiri Hajek was born on the 6th of June 1913 and died on the 22nd of October 1993. Hajek was a Czech politician, diplomat and a lawyer. He was one of the founders for Charter 77.

Due to him being associated with Vaclav Havel and Zdenek Mlynar, and charter 77 he was the frequent target of police forces and threats.

Prior to being involved in Charter 77 he worked as the minister of foreign affairs in Dubcek's government. When the Warsaw Pact invasion happened and Soviet forces invaded Prague he protested against this in a speech in the United Nations. This led to him being let go of his position and association with the communist party.



Leonid Brezhnev

Leonid Brezhnev was born on the 19th of December 1906 and died on the 10th of November 1982. Brezhnev was a Soviet politician who served as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1964 until he died in 1982. He also had a killer pair of eyebrows.

His leadership position was strengthened when reforms in Prague started occurring which went against Soviet leadership and governance. These reforms created chaos among the communist party of the Soviet Union and led to party members flocking to Brezhnev for leadership.



Brezhnev bore resentment towards Alexander Dubcek and the reform party in Czechoslovakia due to them posing a major threat to Soviet authority and control over Czechoslovakia and the entirety of the Eastern Bloc.

Brezhnev publicly denounced Dubcek's leadership and reforms. Brezhnev ordered the Warsaw Pact invasion of Prague which eventually led to the end of the reforms.

Alexei Kosygin

Alexei Kosygin was born on the 21st of February 1904 and died on the 18th of December 1980.

Kosygin served as the chairman in the council of ministers from 1964 to 1980.

He was the head of the Soviet Government after Khrushchev's dismissal, however in 1968 he was surpassed by Leonid Brezhnev when the Prague Spring caused chaos among the Soviet Government. However he was allowed by Brezhnev to remain in office until 1980 when he retired due to health problems.

Kosygin played a key role in the Prague Spring as part of the Soviet leadership that initially pursued negotiations with Alexander Dubcek but ultimately supported the 1968 invasion. Although more pragmatic than hardliners like Mikhail Suslov, he still prioritized Soviet control, helping reinforce the Brezhnev Doctrine and showing the limits of reform within the Soviet system.



Nikolai Podgorny

Nikolai Viktorovich Podgorny was born on the 18th of February and died on the 12 January 1983) was a Soviet statesman who worked as the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the head of state of the Soviet Union, from 1965 to 1977.

In October 1964, Nikolai Podgorny played a role in the dismissal of Nikita Khrushchev, after which he became prominent in Soviet leadership. Together with Alexei Kosygin and Leonid Brezhnev, he formed an informal ruling trio known as a triumvirate or “troika.”

After the Prague Spring, and the decline in Kosygin’s influence, Podgorny rose to become the second most powerful figure after Brezhnev. However, as Brezhnev gradually gathered all authority and power on himself, Podgorny’s influence weakened. By June 1977, he was dismissed from his position as Chairman and from the Politburo, which basically ended his career.



Andrei Gromyko

Andrei Gromyko was born on the 18th of July 1909 and died on the 2nd of July 1989. He served as the Soviet Union's foreign minister between 1957 and 1985. He was also the chairman of the presidium of the supreme soviet. One of the nicknames given by western individuals to Gromyko is was Mr Nyet(Mr. No), due to him constantly using the veto power in the United Nations Security Council.

Gromyko played a key role in the negotiations with Alexander Dubček and other prominent figures in Czechoslovakia, in order to convince them to act cautiously with regard to introducing the reforms according to Soviet policies.

The involvement of this individual in the issue was mainly diplomatic; however, he favored the invasion of Czechoslovakia through military means.



Yuri Andropov

Yuri Andropov was born on the 15th of June 1914 and died on the 9th of February 1984. Andropov served as the chairman of the KGB between 1967 and 1982. After Brezhnev died Andropov became the general secretary of the communist party of the Soviet Union from 1982 until his death in 1984.

During the Prague Spring of 1968, Andropov was the main advocate of taking "extreme measures" against Czechoslovakia. According to classified information, the "KGB whipped up the fear that Czechoslovakia could fall victim to NATO aggression or to a coup".



At this time, agent Oleg Kalugin reported from Washington that he had gained access to "absolutely reliable documents proving that neither the CIA nor any other agency was manipulating the Czechoslovak reform movement". His message was destroyed because it contradicted the conspiracy theory Andropov had fabricated.

Andropov ordered a number of active measures, collectively known as operation progress, against Czechoslovak reformers during the Normalization period.

Dmitry Ustinov

Dmirti Ustinov was born on the 30th of October 1908 and died on the 20th December 1984. He was the Central Committee Secretary who was responsible for the Soviet military–industrial complex from 1965 to 1976 and as Minister of Defence of the Soviet Union from 1976 until he died in 1984.

Following his rise to prominence in the central party, he was given the job of administering the Soviet Union's defense industry and its armed forces.

As Brezhnev's health declined in the mid-1970s, power increasingly shifted to a small group including him, Andrei Gromyko, and Yuri Andropov, who helped shape Soviet policy until Brezhnev's death in 1982. Later, under Konstantin Chernenko, Dmitry Ustinov joined Gromyko and Chernenko in an informal ruling trio that led the Soviet Union until Ustinov's death in December 1984.



Mikhail Suslov

Mikhail Suslov was born on the 21st of November 1902 and died on the 25th of January 1982.

Suslov was a Soviet Politician during the cold war.

Suslov was the acting secretary of communist ideology within the Soviet leadership. He strongly went against the reforms proposed by Dubcek, viewing them as a direct threat to socialism and Soviet control over Eastern Europe. Suslov played a key role in persuading other Soviet leaders, including Leonid Brezhnev, that intervention was necessary, and he was instrumental in shaping the ideological justification for the invasion.



He also had influence on the development of the Brezhnev Doctrine, which legitimized interference in other socialist states to prevent the spread of reformist movements.

Ivan Yakubovsky

Ivan Yakubovsky was born on the 7th of January 1912 and died on the 30th of November 1976.

Yakubovsky was a marshal in the Soviet army, being the second highest rank in the Soviet military. He served as the commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact from 1967 to 1976.

Yakubovsky fought in World War 2, in its early days in a tank battalion. He commanded a tank regiment of the 121st Tank Brigade on the USSR's western front, becoming Deputy Commander of the 121st Tank Brigade.

Yakubovsky became the First Deputy Minister of Defence in the Soviet Union in 1967. He remained in high command throughout the year which led to him directing military preparations for the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in August of 1968.



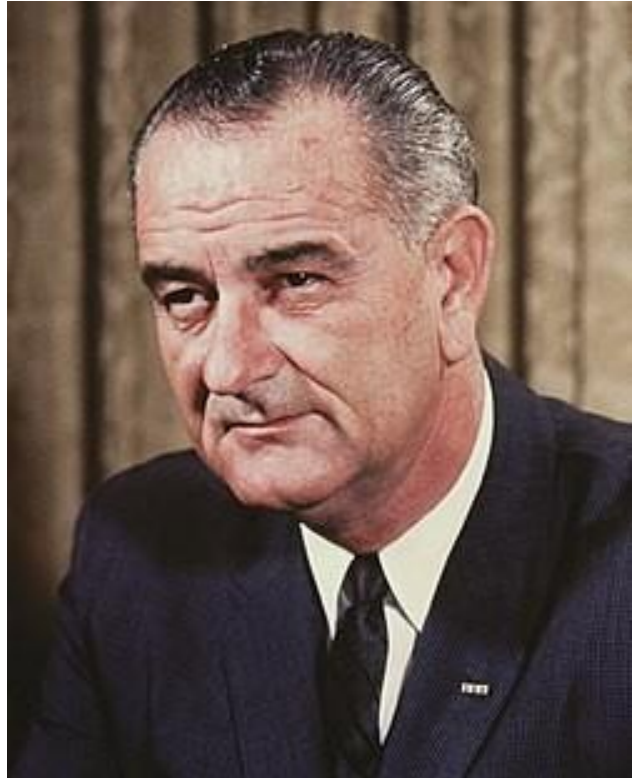
Lyndon B. Johnson

Lyndon B. Johnson was born on the 27th of August 1908 and died on the 22nd of January 1973. Johnson was the 36th president of the United States of America, he came into office after the unexpected assassination of John F. Kennedy. Prior to coming into office he had served as Kennedy's vice president from 1961 to 1963. He was in office from late 1963 to early 1969.

While Lyndon B. Johnson was actively involved in combating communist influence in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and

Latin America, he was also interested in fostering better ties with the Soviet Union through arms limitation treaties. Both countries were eager to decrease animosity between each other during the mid and late 1960s because of the deterioration in the relationship between China and the Soviet Union.

The presidents even held a meeting at the Glassboro Summit in 1967 to enhance their cooperation. Unfortunately, their plans for future collaboration ended abruptly with the Soviet invasion of Prague Spring in August of 1968, preventing a scheduled disarmament conference from taking place.



Dean Rusk

Dean Rusk was born on the 9th of February 1909 and died on the 20th of December 1994. Rusk was the Secretary of State from 1961 to 1969, serving under John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. He was the second longest-serving secretary of state. Kennedy requested Rusk to be his secretary after he won office. He continued to stay in his position after the abrupt assassination of John F. Kennedy. It was said that Rusk was known to be a favorite of Johnson's.

Prior to being secretary of state he was in the army reserves in the 1930's and called for active duty in the 1940's. At war's end, he was a colonel, decorated with the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster.



During the Prague Spring, Rusk served an equally restrained and significant part as the principal designer of American foreign policies during the presidency of Johnson. While he was closely monitoring the reforms instituted by Alexander Dubček, Rusk made it clear to the world that the United States would not come forward in a military intervention as it did not consider Czechoslovakia outside its (Soviet Union's) jurisdiction. Following the Warsaw Pact invasion in August 1968, however, he was quite vocal against this move through diplomatic means, mainly at the United Nations.

Richard Helms

Richard Helms was born on the 30th of March 1913 and died on the 23rd of October 2002. Between 1966 and 1973 Helms served as the Director of Central Intelligence. After that he served as the United States ambassador to Iran between 1973 and 1976. Helms served in the Office of Strategic Services, a wartime predecessor to the CIA, in Europe during World War II.

As the director of the CIA, Richard Helms held a more backstage position in relation to the Prague Spring events. His primary task was to analyze information and gauge the situation, keeping track of the reforms initiated by Alexander Dubček and the probability of Soviet military action.

It should be noted that the CIA successfully predicted a possible military move by the Soviets; however, the United States decided not to intervene in any way based on the acquired intelligence.

