Name of Country: Czech Republic

Name of Representative: Nicholas Tang

Superpower your nation seeks reparations from: Soviet Union (USSR)

To the Members of the United Nations General Assembly:

We………..

The Czech Republic are seeking reparations from the Soviet Union (USSR). During the Cold War, the Soviet Union struggled to keep Communist control in the Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia at the time), by taking violent and oppressive measures to maintain communism in the Czech Republic. It was only until the Velvet Revolution that the unwanted communist rule ended in the Czech Republic, however we suffered many losses until that pivotal moment.

**Background of your nation:**

After World War I, the Czechs and Slovaks of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire had formed to create Czechoslovakia. It was only until after the Velvet Divorce of 1993, Czechoslovakia split the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Czechoslovakia was a protectorate of Germany, which was under Hitler and later, one to the Soviet Union as it fell into the Soviet Union's sphere of influence due to its geographical positioning. At the time Czechoslovakia was known to be a strong democracy in Central Europe, however on the 1938 leadership in Great Britain the French had conceded the German right to take over the Sudetenland in the munich Agreement. When Prague Spring had came that year, Prime Minister Alexander Dubceck and President Ludvik Svoboda attempted to introduce “social with a human face”, in order to liberalize from Communism. Though, this was met with brutal and harshful retaliation to the revolution by the Warsaw Pact countries including the installment of 175,000 men and curfews. Due to America’s growing involvement in Vietnam, President Lyndon Johnson condemned the invasion as a violation of the U.N. charter, however could do nothing to stop the invasion, so basically Czechoslovakia couldn’t get any help from any major powers. However, after many years communism was beginning to die out in Czechoslovakia, which in 1989 the Velvet Revolution helped get rid of Communism and eventually the Velvet Divorce, causing the Czech Republic and Slovakia to become independent countries. After the communism was gone from the Czech Republic, the Czech Republic was able to adapt a free market economy, and helping the economy prosper. The Czech Republic also able to obtain 99% literacy rate, and trade resources with many different countries including Germany, France, and Poland.

**What role your country played in the Cold War (How your country was involved)**

The role of the Czech Republic (or Czechoslovakia at the time) was part of the Soviet sphere of influence during the Cold War due to the geographic positioning. Being part of Warsaw pact forcefully or else facing retaliation of other countries part of the Warsaw pact, Czechoslovakia was forced to fight and help the USSR if they ever went to war with NATO. This shows that Czechoslovakia had no say or anyway to stop USSR from taking control over this country. Czechoslovakia did have a army though. Communism taking over the Czechoslovak government had affected the country in many ways, however many people who were part of the government were purged and replaced by communist leaders. Over the years Czechoslovak armies size had increased due to the help with the Warsaw Pact. The overall goal of the Czechoslovak army was to prevent NATO from doing anything to take over any other countries south of Czechoslovakia because NATO was trying to prevent communism while the Warsaw Pact had to spread communism.

**What superpower had the most impact on your nation and how did it influence your nation:**

The Soviet Union had the most impact negatively on the Czech Republic. While the United State however aided the Czech Republic supplying them with resources until halted when the USSR had taken over Czechoslovakia.

**Politically:**

The Soviet Union influenced the Czech Republic politically during the Cold War because all of the politicians had to be sympathetic to the communist cause. Thomas Masaryk the founder of Prague tried to lead an intense democratic spirit, though they were met with retaliation from the USSR and imprisoned and punished violently. Resulting to curfews, violence to the citizens, and troops being mobilized in Czechoslovakia. This led to strict communism taking control of the Czech Republic politically again.

**Economically:**

Economically, the United States attempted to provide support to Czechoslovakia (and thereby, the Czech Republic) through the Marshall Plan, sending equipment to support the slow recovery of the economy and sending millions dollars worth of supplies. Though, in 1948 the reconstruction of Czechoslovakia was halted by communism. Czechoslovakia entering the Warsaw Pact crippled the economy (having a negative economic effect) to support the disproportionate military that the Soviet Union enforced on to the Czech Republic.

**Socially:**

Socially, Czechoslovakia was originally inspired by Thomas Masaryk’s ideals of democracy. However, when Czechoslovakia entered the Soviet sphere of influence, the Soviet Union oppressed the citizens, taking away their essential liberties and enforcing censorship. When Dubceck and Svoboda started the reforms known as Prague Spring in an effort to liberalize communism, the Czech and Slovak youth were able to see how freedom was like. However, when the Warsaw Pact countries invaded and halted the revolution, the hope for a democratic government was crushed up until the Velvet Revolution occurred. The Soviet Union affected the Czech Republic the most negatively because it oppressed the citizens, stomped on Prague Spring, which caused the Velvet revolution and unstable economy until after the revolution. The U.S. wasn’t very involved because it was increasing its involvement in the Vietnam War.

**Explain how your country was different as a result of the Cold War:**

As a result of the Cold War, the Czech Republic has suffered from all of those years of oppressive rule. Youths were injured and even killed during the Prague Spring, the hopes of the generation were crushed. Even now, air raid sirens ring out through the country every first Wednesday of the Month and serve as a reminder of the Czech republic’s history and involvement in the Cold War even though Czechoslovakia wanted to be a neutral country instead of allying with the Warsaw Pact. For many years during Soviet occupation, the people suffered from having their essential liberties taken away and the media being censored they could never experience what freedom was like.

**Make your case why you seek reparations from the United States or the Soviet Union:**

We, the people of the Czech Republic, seek reparations from the Soviet Union because of the oppression that has been inflicted upon us. We suffered invasion which ended the Prague Spring and was a violation of the U.N. Charter. During that time, youths died and were injured while protesting against the violent incoming Warsaw Pact troops. Youths, weren’t able to experience basic human rights without getting in serious trouble or getting injured due to the retaliation of communist soldiers. The economy suffered after only beginning to become reconstructed from the help of the U.S. because of the disproportionate military that we were forced to maintain as being one of the Warsaw Pact countries. For these many years of oppression and having our civil liberties taken away from us for so long before freedom and democracy was returned to us, we seek reparations.

**Summary/Conclusion**

The Czech Republic was originally a part of Czechoslovakia before the Velvet Divorce which followed the Velvet Revolution which marked a pivotal moment and the end of communism in the Czechoslovakia. Before that, Czechoslovakia was a strong democracy influenced by Thomas Masaryk, the founder of Prague. However, when communism took over Czechoslovakia, Thomas Masaryk died and his ideals of democracy left with him. For many years to follow, Czechoslovakia would be ruled under strict communist ideals and the military was also purged and changed to fit the Soviet style. Up until Prague Spring, a time that Prime Minister Dubceck and President Svoboda slowly introduced more liberal reforms, the people hadn’t tasted freedom and hope in a while. However, this was crushed by the Soviet Union who sent Warsaw Pact troops in to invade and stomp on the revolution. Despite that, the Prague Spring marked the beginning of the fall of communism in Czech Republic. It wouldn’t be until the Velvet Revolution in 1989 that communism would actually fall and later, Czechoslovakia would split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic seeks reparations from the Soviet Union because of its negative influence on the economy, the oppression and the violence it inflicted on the Czech people.