

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Date of Elections: November 26 and 27, 1971

Reason for Elections

The Constitutional Act of October 1968 made of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic a federation of Czech and Slovak states *, and provided for a bicameral Parliament, consisting of the House of the People and of the House of Nations.

The House of the People was formed out of the National Assembly, which had been elected June 14, 1964, and the House of Nations was elected for a transitory period by the enlarged Czech and Slovak National Councils.

Elections were therefore held to renew all the members of both these Houses (together known as the Federal Assembly) on the normal expiration of their mandate.

Characteristics of Parliament

The Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia is bicameral.

The House of the People is comprised of 200 Deputies. The House of Nations is comprised of 150, of whom 75 are elected in the Czech Socialist Republic and 75 in the Slovak Socialist Republic.

The term of office, for all members of the Federal Assembly, has risen from 4 to 5 years by virtue of a Constitutional Act promulgated on July 6, 1971 **.

Electoral System

All citizens of Czechoslovakia who are 18 years old on election day are entitled to vote.

Electoral lists, drawn up by local authorities, must be made public at least 30 days before the elections. Voting is not compulsory.

All voters having attained the age of 21 on election day may be candidates to the Federal Assembly. None, however, may simultaneously be a member of both Houses, or at the same time hold the office of President of the Republic.

All candidates must appear on a single list compiled by the National Front.

The country is divided into 200 constituencies (Bohemia-Moravia: 137, Slovakia: 63) for purposes of election to the House of the People, and into

* See section *Parliamentary Developments* (1968-1969), p. 16.

** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 10.

150 for election to the House of Nations. Vote is by simple plurality, in one round.

By-elections are held to fill a seat of any Deputy which becomes vacant between general elections.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The election date was announced on September 17, 1971. As no legislative elections had taken place in the country since 1964, 1,818,000 people voted for the first time.

Besides those for the Federal Assembly, elections were also held for the 2 national councils, 12 regional councils, 120 district councils, and 10,500 municipal councils — in other words for a total of 200,000 public officials. All candidates appeared on a single list compiled by the National Front, a coalition of the following political parties: Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (245 candidates for both Houses), Czechoslovak Socialist Party (20 candidates), Czechoslovak People's Party (16 candidates), Slovak Reconstruction Party (4 candidates), Slovak Freedom Party (4 candidates) and Non-Party (61 candidates with no official political party affiliation).

Following a campaign without notable incident, all National Front candidates were elected. A list naming these — % of whom were elected for the first time — was thereupon published.

Mr. Lubomir Strougal, outgoing Prime Minister, formed a new Cabinet on December 8, 1971.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in the Federal Assembly

Number of registered voters 10,253,976
 Voters 10,197,234 (99.45 %)

Political Group	Votes obtained	Number of Seats in the Federal Assembly
National Front . . .	10,153,572 (for candidates to the House of the People)	200 (House of the People)
National Front . . .	10,144,464 (for candidates to the House of Nations)	150 (House of Nations)
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		350

2. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Professional Category*

State, party and public officers.114
Workers.	96
Farmers and members of agricultural co-operatives.	51
Economists and technicians.	36
Intellectuals.	32
Members of the armed forces.11
Others.10
	350

3. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Sex*

Men.	260
Women.	90
	350

4. *Distribution of Parliamentarians according to Age Group*

Under 35.	48
35-50.	210
50-60.73
Over 60.19
	350