

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Dates of Elections: October 22 and 23, 1976

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of Parliament on the normal expiry of their term of office.

Characteristics of Parliament

The bicameral Parliament of Czechoslovakia, the Federal Assembly, consists of the Chamber of the People and the Chamber of Nations.

The Chamber of the People is composed of 200 deputies. The Chamber of Nations has 150 members, of whom 75 are elected in the Czech Socialist Republic and 75 in the Slovak Socialist Republic.

All Federal Assembly members have 5-year terms of office.

Electoral System

All Czechoslovak citizens who are at least 18 years old on election day are entitled to vote unless they are insane, imprisoned or in custody.

Electoral registers are revised before elections. Voting is not compulsory.

All qualified electors who have attained the age of 21 on election day may be candidates for the Federal Assembly. The parliamentary mandate is incompatible with the office of President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and that of member of the Constitutional Court.

All candidates must appear on a single list compiled by the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The country is divided into 200 constituencies (Bohemia-Moravia-Silesia: 138; Slovakia: 62) for purposes of elections for the Chamber of the People, and into 150 for the Chamber of Nations. Within these single-member districts, all deputies are elected by absolute majority vote. If no candidate obtains an absolute majority on the first ballot, or if less than an absolute majority of the total number of registered electors have voted, a second ballot is held within 15 days. A simple majority vote at the second ballot is sufficient for a candidate to be elected.

By-elections are held to fill the seat of any deputy which becomes vacant between general elections. This is not mandatory in the last year of the Assembly's term.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The Federal Assembly elections coincided with those for the country's two National Councils and the councils of regions, districts and municipalities. Candidates for all these representative bodies were nominated by the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, a political organization embracing the country's Communist Party, other political parties and mass organizations.

Prior to polling day, a series of speeches relating to various aspects of the national economy were made by leading government officials, including Prime Minister L. Strougal and President of the Republic G. Husak.

All Front candidates were elected as 99.7% of the registered electorate went to the polls. Mr. Strougal continued as head of the Government.

Statistics

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

Number of registered voters	10,649,621
Voters	10,617,152 (99.7 %)
Blank or void ballot papers	7,897 (Chamber of the People)
	8,108 (Chamber of Nations)
Valid votes	10,609,255 (Chamber of the People)
	10,609,044 (Chamber of Nations)
<i>Votes in favour of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic . .</i>	<i>10,605,672</i>

Political Group	Number of Seats
National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic	
— Communist Party of Czechoslovakia	237
— Czechoslovak People's Party . . .	18
— Czechoslovak Socialist Party . . .	17
— Slovak Reconstruction Party . .	4
	4
	70
	350

2. *Distribution of Deputies according
to Professional Category*

Civil and party workers. . . . .	.103
Workers. . . . .	.99
Intelligentsia. . . . .	.65
Agricultural workers. . . . .	.64
Members of the armed forces. . . . .	.12
Pensioners. . . . .	.7
	"350

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men. . . . .	.250
Women.	<u>.100</u>
	350

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Age Group*

35 years and under. . . . .	.53
36-50. . . . .	.145
51-60. . . . .	.134
Over 60.	<u>.18</u>
	~350