

Commemorative Ceremony for the 50th anniversary of The Prague Spring and the Invasion of Czechoslovakia

Time: Tuesday, April 10, 12–12:30

Venue: The Bank Hall

In the early morning of August 21, 1968, armies of the Warsaw Pact led by the Soviet Army, crossed the borders of Czechoslovakia. More than 70 000 citizens fled the country immediately and were later joined by another 230 000. Thousands of them formed the core of the Czech and Slovak communities in Sweden.



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The invasion stemmed from the Prague Spring earlier the same year, during which the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, that had ruled the country since 1948 backed by the Soviet Union, initiated a set of reforms. These included the decentralization of the economy as well as the abolishment of the state censorship and led to calls for further liberalization. The Soviet Union feared that this new "socialism with human face" could lead to the end of the Communist Party power monopoly, and decided to intervene—resulting in the invasion of 1968, which ended only after the fall of the communist regime during the Velvet Revolution of 1989.

- Music: Czechoslovak Chamber Duo – **Pavel Burdych** (violin), **Zuzana Berešová** (piano)
- Introductory remarks: **Mr. Urban Ahlin**, Speaker of the Riksdag
- Address: **H.E. Mr. Milan Štěch**, Speaker of the Senate of the Czech Republic
- Address: **Mr. Peter Osuský**, Member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic
- Music: Czechoslovak Chamber Duo – Pavel Burdych (violin), Zuzana Berešová (piano)

Entrance: Riksgatan 1. Please bring a valid ID and do not arrive later than 11:40 since all guests will be subject to a security check (entrance will open at 11:20).

Registration: nathalie.beser@riksdagen.se. RSVP by April 6.