

## C/S - CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN CAPSULE

MUNICH, AUGUST 21 (CNR) - CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS A SMALL COUNTRY OF ONLY 127,859 SQUARE KILOMETRES BORDERED BY POLAND, HUNGARY, THE SOVIET UNION, EAST AND WEST GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

ITS LONGEST COMMON FRONTIER IS WITH POLAND (1,391 KM), FOLLOWED BY HUNGARY (676 KM), AUSTRIA (570 KM), EAST GERMANY (459 KM), WEST GERMANY (356 KM), AND THE SOVIET UNION (98 KM).

THE MOST HIGHLY-INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRY IN EASTERN EUROPE, ITS NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDE COAL, KAOLIN, PYRITES, MERCURY, SILVER, ANTIMONY, TIN, TUNGSTEN, GRAPHITE, MAGNESITE, NAPHTHA, ORES OF URANIUM, MANGANESE AND COPPER AND NATURAL GAS.

BEYOND THAT COLD DESCRIPTION, IT IS A SMALL, BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY OF ROLLING HILLS AND FOREST LANDS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN BAVARIA AND FRANCONIA. THE AVERAGE SUMMER TEMPERATURE IS AROUND 21 DEG. C, AND THE AVERAGE WINTER TEMPERATURE IS AROUND MINUS FIVE DEGREES C.

IT HAS A POPULATION OF A LITTLE MORE THAN 14 MILLION. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL TOURIST ASSOCIATION STATEMENT THIS IS MADE UP OF ABOUT 66 PER CENT CZECHS, 28.3 PER CENT SLOVAKS, 3.1 PER CENT HUNGARIANS, 1.2 PER CENT GERMANS, 0.6 PER CENT POLES, 0.5 PER CENT UKRAINIANS, WHILE THE REMAINDER IS MADE UP OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC, PROCLAIMED IN OCTOBER 1918, WAS FORMED OUT OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE FROM BOHEMIA, MORAVIA, SLOVAKIA AND RUTHENIA.

BOHEMIA, MORAVIA AND SLOVAKIA WERE PART OF THE GREAT MORAVIAN EMPIRE IN THE 9TH AND EARLY 10TH CENTURIES. BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA EVENTUALLY BECAME PART OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, AND UNDER THE BOHEMIAN MONARCHY PRAGUE WAS CENTRAL EUROPE'S CULTURAL CAPITAL.

AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S HISTORY REMAINED RELATIVELY UNTRoubLED UNTIL THE EARLY 1930'S WHEN THE SUDETEN GERMAN NAZI PARTY AND THE NATIONALIST PARTY, ABETTED BY ADOLF HITLER, BEGAN TO MAKE TROUBLE. PROBLEMS IN THE SUDETENLAND WERE EXACERBATED AS THE PRAGUE GOVERNMENT INSTITUTED SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES ALONG ITS GERMAN BORDER WHICH INEVITABLY CURTAILED THE LIBERTIES OF THOSE LIVING THERE.

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