

(17-10)

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND ON SENATE FLOOR,
FEBRUARY 24, 1958.

MR. PRESIDENT,

February 25 is the tenth anniversary of the communization of Czechoslovakia.

This communization did not occur all at once. The move toward Communism and the stifling of democratic voices began in 1945, and continued, through a number of steps, until the process was completed and formalized on February 25, 1948.

During the decade since that date, the pendulum has not started a swing back away from enslavement.

It is true that optimistic reports have been spread about. The Communistic government of Czechoslovakia has encouraged politicians of the National Front who, under the guise of "exiles," have preached the doctrine that Communism in Czechoslovakia would gradually democratize itself.

These are the same illusions which brought Communism to Czechoslovakia 10 years ago, when other leaders of that country believed that their Communist colleagues would democratize themselves.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the completion of the communization of Czechoslovakia, we should express our sympathy for the enslaved victims of Communist aggression, and we should strengthen our efforts to bring about the return of full political and economic freedom, through peaceful means, to the nations and territories now under Communist rule.