

SUMMARIES

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INTEGRATION INTO THE CMEA

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The Committee of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), which was founded in 1949, among other motives, as a response to the Marshall plan, was projected as pacemaker for closer economic cooperation among East Bloc countries adopting the concept of a planned economy. For want of feasible alternatives, trade between CMEA member countries remained dependent on bilateral agreements. Negotiations about these agreements led to excessive prices for industrial goods produced (not only) in Czechoslovakia and being exchanged for Soviet fuel and raw materials, with the prices of the latter emulating those on the world market. This was tantamount to Czechoslovakia receiving enormous subsidies from the USSR, particularly since its products became less and less competitive in the international marketplace, resulting in Czechoslovakia becoming more and more dependent on Soviet energy.