
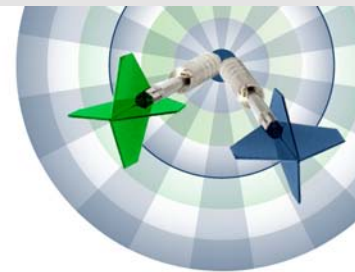


Havel in Congress 25 years later



A bust of Václav Havel will be unveiled in the U.S. Congress on Nov. 19, nearly 25 years after Havel gave a historical speech to the body on Feb. 21, 1990. (See here for a [video](#) and here for a [transcript](#).) He received a standing ovation, but Václav Klaus told [MFD](#) on Sat. that he was in the audience and didn't clap. The speech was absurd, Klaus said. It used long sentences and was philosophizing and anti-American. He can guarantee, he said, that none of the congressmen understood it. Klaus might have felt that way then, but an analysis of the speech now shows that Havel, in an uncanny way, predicted U.S. foreign policy for the next quarter century. He spoke of spreading freedom, of democratizing the Soviet Union and its satellites, of the peace dividend (without using the term) and of Europe finally standing guard over itself militarily. It's almost as if the speech had been written by the U.S. State Department. By criticizing Havel's words, Klaus is tacitly criticizing U.S. foreign policy, but without putting his invitations to speak in the U.S. at risk.

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