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No. 4453

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Mon., June 1, 2020

## Hong Kong and the new Iron Curtain

To understand Donald Trump's policy toward Hong Kong, Czechs need only look to their own history. [U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo](#) used different language last week when he said that, "No reasonable person can assert today that Hong Kong maintains a high degree of autonomy from China," but the resemblance to Winston Churchill's ["Iron Curtain" speech](#) is striking. This applies even more so to a speech by [Vice Pres. Mike Pence](#) as far back as Oct. 4, 2018. Churchill said on March 5, 1946, that "an iron curtain has descended across the Continent" and that "behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe." He was condemning the increasing Soviet influence over "Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia ... in what I must call the Soviet sphere." Even more importantly, though, Churchill was affirming and accelerating the Soviet encroachment. Just before Churchill spoke that day, [U.S. Pres. Harry Truman](#) said that he had grown very fond of Churchill and Joseph Stalin and that they were leaders at a time when the world needed leadership.

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