The Prague Molecular Spectroscopy Conference
What came before PRAHA2008?

<table>
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<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
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<tr>
<td>I.</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Prague</td>
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<td>II.</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Prague</td>
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<td>III.</td>
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<td>XIX.</td>
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<td>X.</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Liblice</td>
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Talk mostly about Liblice era
As I remember, the genesis of the “Prague” meeting and the “Dijon” meeting was at a very small conference at NRC Ottawa in July 1968 attended by myself and (among others):

Josef Plíva (Czechoslovakia)
Gilbert Amat (France)
Ian Mills (United Kingdom)

Their idea was to have a high-resolution molecular spectroscopy meeting, alternately in East and West Europe, both modeled on the US Columbus meeting, i.e., with a central focus on many presentations by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

The three scientists above believed there was a need for meetings in Europe that were not restricted by invitation or by cost to established (i.e., to old) scientists.
Josef Plíva (a few years ago)
Unique aspect of the Liblice Meeting

Prague was “easily” accessible from the East or West
Liblice seemed to be remarkably “surveillance free”

Many East-West scientific collaborations developed
and many visits were arranged.

A few examples from 1970-1990:

USA (OSU) – Prague (Infrared Spectra)
Germany – Prague (Infrared Spectra, Theory)
USA (NIST) – Nizhny Novgorod (Microwave Spectra)
Köln – Nizhny Novgorod (Microwave Spectra)
Canada (NRCC) – Prague, Troitsk (Theory)
France – Tomsk (Atmospheric Infrared Spectra, Theory)
K. Narahari Rao

Czechoslovak and French Participants
Prof. K. Narahari Rao organized one or two-year visits to the Physics Department, Ohio State University for

Dušan Papoušek (~1968-69)
Kamil Sarka (~1970-71)
Štěpán Urban (~1983-84)

Other people helped organize trips for

Vladimír Špírko (NRCC, Canada ~1981-82) & (Max Planck Institute, Garching, BRD ~1980’s)
Winnewisser x 2, Gordy, Sovička, ?
Parker, Rao, Henry, Hougen
Hougen, Burenin, Creswell, Krupnov, Papoušek
The Second Torsional State of Acetaldehyde


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Fig. 1. A portion of the room-temperature submillimeter-wave spectrum of acetaldehyde between 409.5 and 410.5 GHz, recorded with the RAD-3 spectrometer in Nizhny Novgorod. The noise level is much smaller than the pen width. Five a-type lines originating in the \( v_i = 2 \) state are labeled above the spectrum.
Atmosphere of meeting was “informal and playful,” like a high-school party that your parents didn’t want you to attend.

1. About 120 participants (limited seating).
2. All slept and ate in the Liblice castle.
3. Evening gatherings in castle dining room.
4. Tuesday night picnic (Živáňská)

So it was easy to get to know everybody.
Boháček, Aliev, Hougen, Danielis, Watson
Roasting sausages at the picnic bonfire
Anonymous Czechoslovak Soldier Inspects Symposium
Linguistic sightseeing
(for older Czechs and Slovaks in the audience)
(and with a certain sense of humor)

Red and yellow slogan banners of that era. Where can one find a collection of them?

They should be put on the web someplace, because they are excellent pattern texts for Czech grammatical instruction.
A well-known example

Se Sovětským svazem na věčné časy

Masculine instrumental singular of noun and adj. Accusative after time expressions with “na”

Other banners taught the full plural declension of certain popular nouns
naši bratři
našich bratrů
naším bratrům
naše bratry
naši bratři
našimi bratry
našich bratrech

Full plural declension of brother +
Full plural declension of masculine animate form of our
<table>
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<th>Czech Words</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>naši bratři</td>
<td>přátelství našich bratrů</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>přátelství</td>
<td>srdečně děkujeme naším bratrům</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>srdečně děkujeme</td>
<td>naše bratry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kupředu s</td>
<td>našimi bratry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kupředu s</td>
<td>našich bratrech</td>
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Use of genitive, dative, and prepositional
Formation of adverb in ě from -ý adjective
The lost Czech epic poem
≈ Czech Iliad or Odyssey

Who is old enough to remember all of it?
Where is a copy of the complete text?
I couldn’t find it anywhere on the web.

I only remember one couplet, because of its very useful grammatical examples.
s---- podle norem
feminine genitive plural after “podle”

r---- h---- nám je vzorem
dative of interest as in “tramvaj nám ujela”
instrumental (masc. sing.) after ”je” = is,
where all “normal” languages
would use the nominative

Note the norem versus vzorem rhyme

English speakers cannot do this because
we don’t even have these cases anymore.
The First Liblice Conference - 1974
The last Liblice Conference - 1988