

USSR: Soviet authorities have no intention of letting developments at home follow the path set in Czechoslovakia.

Soviet party boss Brezhnev made this clear yesterday in a speech which contained the harshest attack on political dissent heard from a politburo member in the post-Khrushchev era.

Speaking at a Moscow party meeting, he portrayed the dissent as the activity of groups of intellectuals and not merely isolated individuals, and warned that "renegades cannot expect impunity." His remarks place an official seal of approval on the current crack-down which has included the recent trials of dissidents, the police warnings to petition-signers, and the ouster of several intellectuals, including Ginzburg's defense attorney, from the Communist Party.

Brezhnev's remarks implied that there may be some unrest within the party over the course of Soviet policies. He accused critics of acting out of political expediency rather than from conviction. Although admitting the need for "principled" criticism, he said that "the Leninist directive on the need of iron party discipline" had not lost its relevance.

Brezhnev took a similarly stern view of the world in general. He emphasized the need for solidarity in the socialist world and hostility toward the capitalist world. His anxiety over trends in Eastern Europe was revealed in his charge that the West was relying on "nationalistic and revisionist elements" in an effort to weaken the Soviet bloc.

He said that a "deep economic crisis in the capitalist system is not ruled out" and criticized those in the USSR who underestimate Soviet achievements and overestimate those of the capitalist world. The second point, while ostensibly criticism of elements in the

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Soviet scientific community, contrasts with the position taken by Premier Kosygin in a speech last month when he said that the USSR must be willing to learn from the scientific and technological progress of the West.

The more chauvinist attitude struck by Brezhnev seems to denote a shift of climate in Moscow, if not a divergence between the two leaders. [REDACTED]

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