

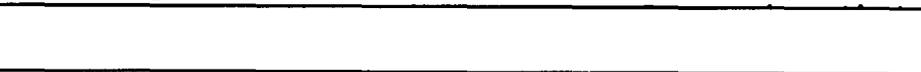
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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Prague's leaders probably attempted to obtain Moscow's approval for implementing some aspects of their pre-invasion economic reform program during their weekend meeting in Kiev with the Soviet leaders.

Party leader Dubcek admitted on 5 December that the Czechoslovaks had consulted Moscow prior to publishing the party's resolutions at a plenary meeting of the central committee in November, in order that the resolutions would not be "a new target of polemics." Another plenary meeting of the central committee, scheduled for 12 December, will discuss economic matters.

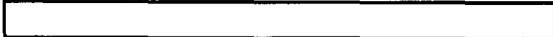
An additional topic of conversation probably was the Soviet-sponsored newspaper, Zpravy, and Radio Vlatava, which have been operating illegally as Soviet mouthpieces in Czechoslovakia since the invasion. The Dubcek regime has been under heavy pressure to protest to the Soviets over their operation,

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The communiqué issued after the meeting does not indicate that the Czechoslovaks gained satisfaction or that the two sides resolved any of their many differences. It noted only that they "exchanged opinions" on the further development of cooperation and discussed other questions of mutual interest. The very fact that the Czechoslovaks continue to consult the Soviets concerning Czechoslovak internal affairs indicates again the narrow limits within which Dubcek must operate.

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