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Czechoslovakia: The introduction of a new punitive measure--"prohibition of residence"--suggests that the Husak leadership is determined to preserve domestic tranquility at all costs.

An estimated 21 persons have been banished from Prague for violating emergency laws passed on 22 August, a day after nationwide demonstrations marked the first anniversary of the Soviet invasion. Prague authorities originally announced that this legislation would expire at the end of the year, but they now intend to make it permanent and to incorporate it into a new penal code to be drafted next year.

Banishment has only rarely been used as a form of legal punishment since Czechoslovakia's Stalinist period in the early 1950s. The present emergency laws call for banishment from 1 to 5 years, which can be appended to prison sentences or applied to a wide range of "offenses" that are not now punishable as criminal acts. Under Husak, such a practice may become a common alternative to imprisonment for public manifestations of antiregime or anti-Soviet sentiment.

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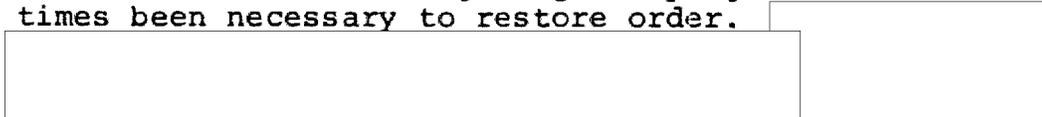
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Hungary: A purge may be taking place in the Ministry of Interior.

Although there is no firm indication of the nature of this struggle, the US Embassy has reported rumors of an anti-Zionist purge. Because party chief Kadar has been consistently opposed to anti-Semitism, planners of such a purge would presumably have to be very circumspect.

A party central committee meeting late last month adopted a vague resolution that exhorted the Hungarian public to continue support of the Interior Ministry and admonished ministry employees to do their job "speedily and conscientiously." This resolution followed unexplained visits by the East German and Romanian ministers of interior in mid-November, both of whom talked with a Kadar lieutenant not previously known to be responsible for internal security.

The Ministry of Interior, which is responsible for intelligence and security, has often been the scene of factional infighting and purges have sometimes been necessary to restore order.



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Colombia: The selection of Misael Pastrana as the National Front candidate in next April's presidential elections probably will cause severe splits within the country's two major parties.

For the first time since the Front arrangement took force in 1958, the outcome is uncertain. Pastrana will receive full backing from the National Front, which calls for alternating presidencies between the Liberal and Conservative parties, but other candidates probably will run. Foremost among these is ex-dictator Rojas Pinilla, and possibly former president Valencia. Other likely contenders are Evaristo Sourdis, who received the same number of votes as Pastrana during the Conservative convention last month, and Belisario Betancur, who was selected by a "popular" convention in late October.

Eighty-two of the more than 600 delegates walked out of Friday's Liberal party convention as a protest against the prearranged selection of Pastrana. The dissidents have threatened to organize a "popular" convention to determine what action the group will take, according to the US Embassy in Bogota. During the Conservative convention in early November, Pastrana was unable to win the necessary votes to secure the party's nomination.

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Bolivia: The Ovando government is responding to leftist and student pressure to remove "imperialist intervention" in the Bolivian labor movement.

Minister of Information Bailey told the press on 4 December that the government has no intention of renewing the USAID-sponsored American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD) contract when it expires at the end of this month. Bailey said that if the US Government wishes to assist Bolivia in labor development, this would be acceptable only if such programs were under the complete control and administration of Bolivian institutions. In a conversation with Ambassador Siracusa on 5 December, President Ovando seemed more conciliatory on the issue, but stated that the AIFLD contract must be modified to give the Bolivian Government a say in how the program is run.

The minister of labor earlier took full credit for getting the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization (ORIT) out of the country, although ORIT itself had decided to withdraw rather than continue to be subject to leftist charges that might jeopardize its missions in other Latin American countries.



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Panama: Business and labor are seriously concerned about the provisional government's plans to build a political base among workers by establishing a government-controlled national labor organization.

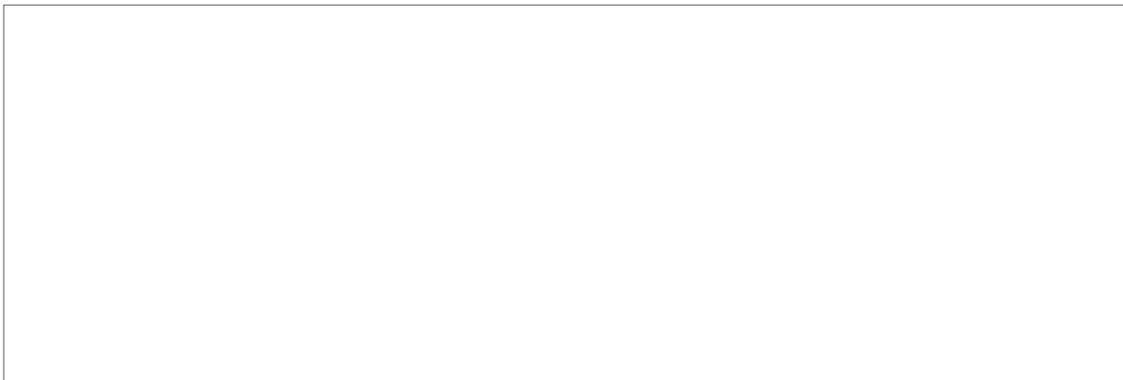
In an unusual demonstration of resistance to the government, the Confederation of Panamanian Workers and the National Council of Private Enterprise, a powerful business organization, have indicated strong opposition to the new labor policy which calls for compulsory union participation in the new organization. The labor leaders are convinced that the leftist minister of labor is behind the new policy.

They are attempting to arrange a meeting with the government strongman General Torrijos before his scheduled labor policy speech on 14 December. The leaders hope to negotiate a compromise that would protect their positions and prevent their unions from being swallowed up by the government-controlled confederation. They are prepared to call for work stoppages of increasing duration in order to gain their objectives.

The labor minister, who has numerous Communist connections, reportedly advised a leader of the Communist-led Workers' Federation to join the government's proposed confederation and try to win control of it. Nevertheless, there is no indication that Torrijos would permit Communist control. Instead, the confederation is probably part of the government's effort to establish an official political party that would be organized on a sector basis, with representatives from peasant, student, worker, and professional groups.

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Czechoslovakia: The party central committee's "economic" plenum scheduled for this month has been postponed for a second time. No new date has been announced officially, but a source of the US Embassy in Prague believes that it will not convene until 20 January. This postponement suggests that the Husak regime has not had enough time since last April to work out its economic programs in the aftermath of a protracted period of political crisis. A government spokesman recently announced that the regime has decided to consider 1970 a "year of general consolidation," during which it will gradually introduce a series of measures that it hopes will alleviate the country's political and economic ills.



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Uruguay: The government has extended its territorial waters claim from 12 to 200 nautical miles. Only last May its claim went from six to 12 miles. Uruguay thus joins eight other Latin American nations that claim jurisdiction over either territorial seas, fishing rights, or exploitation of the seabeds up to 200 miles.



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