

Czechoslovakia - Eastern Europe: A number of Czechoslovakia's allies, led by East Germany, have criticized developments in Prague.

In a bitter attack on 26 March, East German politburo member Kurt Hager publicly assailed Czechoslovak "renewers" and "modern Marxist revisionists." He also directly attacked Josef Smrkovsky, a leading proponent of "democratization."

The East Germans are attempting to influence internal changes in Czechoslovakia and to slow down any revamping of Czechoslovak foreign policy. Hager's attack suggests that Dubcek was unable at the Dresden meeting last weekend to allay Pankow's fear that Prague will pay less attention to its interests. Hager drew an explicit connection between the "attitude assumed by Smrkovsky and others" with alleged attempts by West Germany to "isolate" East Germany from its Communist neighbors.

Czechoslovakia has protested both to the East German ambassador and, in an unprecedented move, to the East Germany party leadership in Pankow. Numerous Czechoslovak organizations had already rejected foreign criticism. The exchange undoubtedly will lead to a further deterioration of Czechoslovak - East German relations.

For the second time in a week, the Hungarian party endorsed Czechoslovak developments, but also expressed concern. Zoltan Komoscin, the leading ideologist of the Hungarian party, emphasized a parallel between the situation in Hungary in 1956 and that in Czechoslovakia now. He warned that the Czech party must overcome the "anarchistic endeavors" of both the "conservative forces" within the party and the "nationalist, rightist forces" which idealize the "bourgeois republic" of the pre - World War II era.

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In what amounts to an indirect reply to foreign criticism, Dubcek remarked on the Dresden meeting in a 26 March interview. He noted that there had been "considerable interest" about Czechoslovakia, with concern expressed lest "antisocialist" elements participate in the democratization process. He said that "all our friends"--rather than all participants--wished Czechoslovakia "success" and endorsed fully what has been done. Dubcek's remarks suggest that Prague intends to continue its reforms. [REDACTED]

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