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[ Czechoslovakia: Dubcek's speech at the opening of the central committee plenum apparently was an attempt to satisfy the party's liberals while mollifying the party's conservative wing and the Soviet Union.

Dubcek responded favorably to the major demand of the liberals by recommending that an extraordinary party congress be convened in September and that a new central committee be elected. The liberals doubtless were also pleased that former party leader Novotny, the most obvious member of the conservative faction, was ousted from the central committee. Novotny and six others, none of whom were on the central committee or are present-day cronies of Novotny, were also suspended from membership in the party until their roles in the political trials of the 1950s are clarified.

In a probable effort to forestall further intensification of the factional struggle, however, Dubcek again implicitly warned against witch hunts, rejecting attempts to discredit the party as a whole and to create an "atmosphere of hysteria." He once more appealed for party unity, and emphasized that preparations for the congress must be thorough.

Dubcek recommended that a commission be established to prepare an agenda for the congress, and personally recommended that eight basic matters be included. In discussing these eight points, Dubcek apparently was seeking to gain further popular support as well as to allay Soviet fears concerning developments in Czechoslovakia. He supported the establishment of worker groups in enterprises, rejected efforts to form an "opposition," praised the People's Militia and rejected efforts to weaken it, and promised to fulfill all international obligations in the "spirit of proletarian internationalism." ]

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[Dubcek also attempted to mollify Moscow by emphasizing repeatedly that anti-Communist and anti-socialist tendencies had to be decisively and publicly exposed and their propagators "isolated." Dubcek reaffirmed that the party will carry out the "revival process" begun in January, but sought to demonstrate that this will strengthen rather than weaken Communism. In a statement clearly directed toward the conservatives and Moscow, Dubcek stressed that in accomplishing its goals the party must guarantee not to permit a return to conditions existing before January 1968 nor, particularly, to those existing prior to the Communist coup in February 1948.

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