

Czechoslovakia: Party leaders have been drumming up support in key cities for the ouster of conservatives from high party posts, acting as if they no longer expect Soviet pressures on this issue.

Information on the sessions is sparse thus far, but presumably the speakers are following the lead of party first secretary Dubcek who on 3 June addressed some 6,000 activists in Brno. His theme was the rebuilding of the party, and popular confidence in it, largely on the basis of the reformist action program.

For the first time in public Dubcek specifically lashed out at former party boss Novotny and his supporters.

In his speech Dubcek charged the conservatives with attempting to undermine the new regime, even though they had been given a voice in determination of policy. He again held out an olive branch, however, to potential converts.

Dubcek's discussion of domestic problems reveals a heightened sensitivity--possibly reflecting his recent talks with Kosygin--about a number of specific issues which made the Soviets apprehensive about the course of Czechoslovak developments. He agreed with the basic Soviet doctrine, for example, that the world was divided by "class struggle" but in the next breath he reasserted that this precept had no validity in today's Czechoslovakia.

Dubcek also dutifully paid respect to the Soviet line that "some" anti-Communists were attempting to take political advantage of the new climate, but he exuded confidence about his ability to control such elements. In fact, he credited these forces with showing "great restraint" so far. He noted that "hostile" emigrés and intelligence services had lately shown increased interest in Czechoslovak affairs and that "hostile news agencies"

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were trying to disrupt party unity and relations between Communist states. None of these things seemed to concern him much, and he did not seem to believe--as the Soviet press has charged--that they meant his democratization process was being exploited by the West.

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