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Czechoslovakia: The Dubcek regime may allow the formation of new political parties provided they operate within the confines of the National Front.

The Front is a grouping of four minor political parties and other "interest groups" which is dominated by the Communist Party. A legal expert informed a committee of the National Assembly on 18 June that an earlier statement by the Interior Ministry that no new parties could be formed was "not entirely correct." Interior Minister Pavel himself stated on the same day that the establishment of new "organizations" is the "autonomous right" of citizens. He said some 70 new organizations have already requested regime sanction. Thus far, he added, only one has been approved "under existing laws."

Last week the Communist Party concluded an agreement with other members of the National Front which will enable the non-Communist parties to participate in formulating and implementing state policy.

Moscow has not yet taken public notice of either of these two related steps which touch on the sensitive issue of Communist Party primacy.



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