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Eastern Europe: Uncertainty about Soviet intentions in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe is keeping tensions in the capitals of the area high.

In Czechoslovakia, the Soviets are only slowly and irregularly reducing their visible presence and control, and Prague's leaders remain uncertain how much freedom they will have. Soviet troops apparently have vacated the radio and television stations in Prague but continue to occupy several of the newspaper offices. The troops reportedly are to complete their withdrawal from the center of Prague by today, but large concentrations of armor and troops were seen in downtown areas yesterday.

Pravda yesterday warned that Soviet troops had to remain in the country, citing unspecified "counter-revolutionary" activity as justification. Both the East German and Polish party dailies printed similar statements.

The Dubcek regime, meanwhile, is attempting to convey the impression that it is taking hold, but Premier Cernik reportedly informed a group of intellectuals on 2 September that the regime is uncertain how much Moscow will restrict Prague's freedom of action. Cernik apparently believes there are close to 800 KGB personnel in Czechoslovakia. Journalists and intellectuals continue to remain sensitive to reports of a planned purge of cultural workers. Their deep disquiet is reflected in continuing reports about an exodus of the intelligentsia.

Rumania, in the meantime, continues to show signs that it fears a Soviet invasion. According to a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry official, Bucharest informed the Yugoslavs on 3 September that three Soviet divisions are in Bulgaria and six additional divisions have moved into Hungary from the USSR.]

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[There is still no good evidence of the presence of any Soviet troops in Bulgaria.

The US Embassy in Budapest, moreover, commented yesterday that

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[redacted] has failed to confirm the presence of even one additional Soviet division in that country.

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Yugoslavia itself continues to evidence signs of nervousness. The Yugoslav ambassador in Prague apparently fears a military move against his country, and informed Ambassador Beam that in Soviet eyes Yugoslavia was the "villain in the piece." Yugoslav armed forces remain on alert and have prepared ground force defensive positions facing Hungary and Bulgaria.

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