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EASTERN EUROPE REACTS ADVERSELY TO SOVIET INVASION

The USSR's invasion of Czechoslovakia has suspended the movement toward liberalization and freer national expression in Communist Eastern Europe. Even as the Russians were suppressing the Czechoslovaks, however, they were also dramatizing for all Eastern Europeans the power and appeal of the Czech movement. Eastern European leaders who supported Moscow's move now face the delicate task of justifying to nationalist elements within their own regime and to their own people an unacceptable premise--the necessity of subjugating national interests to those of Moscow.

In the past year, a revolution of expectation, reinforced by increasing signs of freedom in Czechoslovakia, has been under way in Eastern Europe. Unlike the previous generation, which accepted authoritarianism with a resigned cynicism, the present generation expects a better life. This is especially true among the rebellious youth who will return to classes this month in a hostile mood following the events of August.

The crisis has intensified differences within the Polish

leadership, and rifts in other Eastern European party hierarchies are expected. Conservative elements, emboldened by the display of Soviet force, may decide that the time is ripe to oust liberal reformists from their positions.

In contrast, the unity of the Yugoslav and Rumanian leaderships has been strengthened by their vocal opposition to the occupation of Czechoslovakia and by rumors--possibly self-inspired--that they might be next. Although Tito and Ceausescu have aroused unprecedented patriotic support, their realistic appraisals probably will lead them to less vigorous resistance to some Soviet foreign policy goals.

Until Moscow signals how far it is prepared to go to impose its will, the atmosphere in Eastern Europe will remain tense and permeated with distrust, and policy making will be erratic. Most Eastern Europeans, leaders as well as led, while they may not for a time be able to advance toward national independence, have nevertheless developed more powerful anti-Soviet feelings as a consequence of Moscow's invasion.

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