USSR-Czechoslovakia: A high-ranking Soviet official arrived in Prague yesterday, presumably to monitor the progress of Czechoslovakia's "normalization."

According to a Western news service, Vasily Kuznetsov, Soviet First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and a CPSU central committee member, was sent as the Kremlin's envoy in response to a request by the Czechoslovaks. They were said to have asked for a Soviet emissary with authority to make political decisions about the implementation of measures which would permit the evacuation of troops. Despite Prague's wish to expedite a withdrawal, it is highly unlikely that Moscow has delegated to Kuznetsov any such discretionary authority.

Shortly after his arrival Kuznetsov met with President Svoboda. According to Radio Czechoslovakia they had an "exchange of views and information," language suggesting disagreement over the course of Prague's efforts. The Soviet envoy's arrival in the Czechoslovak capital came amid unconfirmed reports of a meeting of the Czechoslovak central committee and evidence of Soviet impatience with the pace and extent of Prague's return to orthodoxy.

Pravda on 6 September said that despite "serious successes" in the Czechoslovak economy, changes in "political and public life" were "only in the initial stages" and that a "correct understanding" of normalization was still lacking. To achieve normalization, Prague was advised to expose and rout "right-wing antisocialist forces" completely, to end their influence on youth, and to strengthen the guiding role of the Communist Party in the entire life of the country.

A Bulgarian military paper reportedly stated yesterday that any expectations that troops of the Warsaw Pact will withdraw soon from Czechoslovakia

Care "unrealistic." The paper reportedly claimed
that reactionaries and counterrevolutionaries desire
a quick withdrawal so that they can have "another
swing at it."

In still another apparent effort to accommodate the Soviets, two non-Communist political organizations, the Club of Committed Non-Party People and K-231, an association of rehabilitated political prisoners, have been banned. The Ministry of Interior ruled on 5 September that the former association has the "character of a political organization" and therefore cannot be accepted. The latter organization was described as "superfluous" because the Communist Party - dominated National Front will handle cases of people wrongly imprisoned.

There has been no significant change in the disposition of occupying forces in Czechoslovakia. Preparations appear under way, however, for an airlift of some Soviet troops out of the Prague area. The US defense attaché in his latest report from Prague stated that there now are an estimated 7,500 Soviet troops at the Prague airport.

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