

SECRET

Czechoslovakia-USSR: Prague is expected to take steps today to fulfill some of its commitments under the Moscow agreement.

The National Assembly convenes today to legalize censorship and to prohibit formation of political parties and semipolitical groups outside the framework of the Communist-dominated National Front. The press legislation being considered is designed to be even more restrictive than the censorship in effect during the latter days of the Novotny regime. The draft bill calls for the reimposition of prior censorship, direct control of mass media, and the establishment of a government committee to monitor the effectiveness of the new regulations.

Foreign Minister Hajek reportedly will submit his resignation, and there may be other cabinet-level shifts. The Soviets are said to have demanded the ouster of mass media officials who have characterized the Soviet entry as an "occupation."

According to a reliable source of the US Embassy in Prague, an organized conservative opposition group has developed in the area of Ostrava in Northern Moravia. This group, which is said to consist of 2-3,000 "old Communists and disgruntled functionaries," is propagating the slogan that Dubcek is responsible for the Soviet intervention.

Participation in the invasion reportedly is having serious political side effects in Hungary and Poland.

Hungary's boss Kadar, who opposed intervention until the last possible moment, remains deeply dejected and sees no one. Other Hungarian party and government leaders are attempting to carry on as usual, however. On 11 September six key leaders visited provincial centers, presumably to brief local leaders on the meaning of Czechoslovak developments.

(continued)

13 Sep 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

Polish propaganda indicates that party boss
Gomulka is trying to take advantage of the present
tough Soviet posture to intimidate his nationalistic
opponents.

25X1

13 Sep 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

SECRET