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## CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS GO TO MOSCOW FOR TALKS

Three liberal Czechoslovak leaders, Alexander Dubcek, Slovak party chief Gustav Husak, and Premier Oldrich Cernik, went to the USSR on 3 October for discussions with Soviet leaders on fulfilling the Moscow agreement. The meeting in Moscow had been scheduled earlier, but was reportedly postponed because first Dubcek and then Brezhnev were ill.

Contention between Prague and Moscow over the composition of the delegation also apparently contributed to the postponement. President Svoboda did not go along. Dubcek undoubtedly is aware that the Soviets consider him a lame duck, to be replaced at the first opportune moment.

The Czechoslovaks have provided barracks and apartments in Bohemia and Moravia for those occupation troops remaining indefinitely. Prague is also bowing to Soviet pressures to thin out the corps of foreign correspondents in Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak officials have also cautioned students returning to school to refrain from activities that might offend the occupation powers. The newly recognized students' union has pledged its support to the Dubcek regime, but its interpretation of "support" may not include blind submissiveness.

Soviet emissary Kuznetsov returned to Moscow on 26 September after three weeks of consultations with Czechoslovak leaders. There has been no official announcement on the results of his fact-finding mission, although he is reported to have found the situation in Prague less disturbing than he had thought before his arrival. One Czechoslovak official was optimistic, characterizing the results of Kuznetsov's stay as "positive" from Prague's point of view.

The Soviet leadership--still seemingly debating its future moves--is nevertheless dissatisfied with the Dubcek regime's performance since the signing of the Moscow accord. TASS has charged that "armed terrorist groups" are being organized by the banned Club 231--an association of former political prisoners--in collusion with "imperialist intelligence services."

In addition, Soviet officials are still saying that Dubcek eventually must be removed from power. A Soviet diplomat has predicted that both Dubcek and National Assembly President Smrkovsky will be sacked, but President Svoboda and Premier Cernik will remain in office.

There is no indication, however, that the Soviets will push

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for Dubcek's ouster soon, nor that the unity of Czechoslovak leaders, who have pledged to stand or fall together, has been broken.

Czechoslovak conservatives, meanwhile, may be attempting a comeback. A group of conservative parliamentary deputies have stated publicly that they and other officials who were dismissed after Dubcek took over should be given appropriate new appointments based on "ability, education, and political reliability." This group, probably

encouraged by the return to Prague from Moscow of pro-Soviet conservative Alois Indra, may be trying to sell itself to the Soviets as the nucleus of a new regime.

Soviet Marshal Yakubovsky, chief of the Warsaw Pact forces, was in Prague on 27 September, probably to discuss terms for the withdrawal of some occupation troops, and possibly the outline of a status-of-forces agreement pertaining to the troops to be stationed indefinitely in the country.

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