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USSR-Yugoslavia: Moscow has again formally attacked Yugoslav policy in the aftermath of Czechoslovakia.

The Soviets have shown their displeasure this time in a letter from the Soviet party central committee delivered to Marshal Tito on 19 October. Deputy Foreign Minister Pavicevic recently told the US ambassador that the letter, although critical of Yugoslav policy, also asserted that Belgrade's fears of a Soviet military threat are "unfounded." The note did not clarify, however, the Soviet view of the boundaries of the "socialist system" which the USSR has pledged to defend. Belgrade fears that this pledge could be used as a pretext for intervention.

Belgrade judges the letter to be somewhat milder in tone than a note of 30 August. That note produced an unyielding Yugoslav reply and reportedly touched off a shouting match between Tito and the Soviet ambassador.

Moscow has also treated Soviet-Yugoslav relations in the party journal Kommunist. An article in the latest issue suggests that Yugoslavia is a part of the "socialist system," but does not pin this down. The ambiguity suggests that Moscow wishes to keep Belgrade uncertain about its intentions in hopes of quieting Yugoslav criticism of Soviet policy. Judging from Tito's truculent speech of 20 October and the recent rebuttal of the Kommunist article in the Yugoslav press, the Soviet pressure has as yet had no effect.

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4

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