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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Dubcek and other top Czechoslovak leaders are faced with serious problems as they prepare for the central committee plenum on 14 November.

Party Secretary Zdenek Mlynar, who reportedly has submitted his resignation rather than give in to Soviet demands, has told mass media officials that the plenum will result in "basic cadre changes" and "disillusionment for the nation." Mlynar's remarks suggest that Dubcek may comply with Soviet insistence that more pro-Soviet conservatives be elevated to the party leadership. The hard liners, who still are in the minority, may now feel that there is enough dissension within the party to issue--with Soviet support--a broad challenge to Dubcek at the plenum.

Moscow's attitude toward the Dubcek leadership appears to have toughened. Special Soviet emissary to Prague Kuznetsov is said to have compiled a detailed criticism of the activities of the Czechoslovak mass media in September and October. [As a result, Reporter, the Czechoslovak equivalent of Time magazine, has been suspended for one month, and several outspoken Communist Party periodicals allegedly will be sharply restricted or silenced completely. According to an unconfirmed press report, the suspension of Politka, a party central committee publication, will be announced today.]

The Russians are disturbed by Dubcek's failure to terminate effectively the anti-Soviet demonstrations throughout the country during the last two weeks, as well as his inability to guarantee that such manifestations of anti-Soviet sentiment will not take place in the future. Prague students, encouraged by the restraint shown thus far by police and military forces during the disturbances, have called for a student strike on 17 November. [Premier Cernik, however, yesterday warned the students that]

12 Nov 68

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

2

SECRET

SECRET

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25X1. [ "drastic steps" which "might end in tragedy" will have to be taken against further demonstrations. Cernik may fear that Soviet troops might take matters in their own hands if the students are not kept under control by the Czechoslovak security forces. ]

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3

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