

World Communist Conference: Many of the world's Communist parties will meet in Budapest on 17 November to try to set a date for the international conference.

Last spring, a preparatory meeting fixed 25 November as the date for the world conference, but that date was dropped as a result of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Six weeks of intensive Soviet lobbying followed, and the Soviets will probably now try to pin down a new date for a world meeting. In his speech at the Polish party congress this week, Soviet First Secretary Brezhnev argued strongly for such a meeting, but did not commit his prestige to any specific date.

The French Communist Party, which had been recalcitrant since the invasion, apparently gave in to especially severe arm twisting during talks in Moscow on 4-5 November. The French were reportedly exposed to bitter harangues by Brezhnev, who threatened to force a formal split in the French party if it did not follow Moscow's lead on rescheduling the conference. Talks between Soviet leaders and an Italian party delegation now in Moscow probably will be equally stormy, although the Italians may be less easy to sway. Other West European parties reportedly have been subjected to similar pressures.

Of the Eastern Europeans, Rumania is likely to attend the preparatory meeting, but Yugoslavia almost certainly will not. Elsewhere, Cuba will probably continue to boycott such gatherings, as will nearly all Asian parties.

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