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Czechoslovakia: Dubcek tried to steer a moderate course in his speech to the central committee on 14 November, but he probably satisfied neither the Czechoslovak population nor Moscow.

Dubcek implied that the "class struggle" would have to be reopened because the present fight against "antisocialist forces" has a "class content." In another indication of retreat from liberalism, Dubcek said that the leading role of the party must be reasserted throughout society, and stressed particularly its application in mass media, and in the work of the multiparty National Front. He also indicated that pro-Soviet conservatives will be given an opportunity to assume top positions in the leadership if they correctly carry out party tasks. There may be other basic changes in his attitude which are not yet apparent. Only a partial text of his speech is available so far.

At the same time, Dubcek sought to mollify the populace by calling for continuation of the economic reform program, improved living conditions, the rehabilitation of former political prisoners, and for guarantees of fundamental civil liberties and of equality between the Czechs and Slovaks.

After Dubcek spoke, over 140 of the 190 central committee members indicated that they too would like to address the plenum. Some party officials reportedly have called for a wide open debate without setting time limits on the speeches--which means that the plenum could conceivably drag on into next week. There may be added confusion as a result of the fact that the draft document now before the central committee was revised after its circulation among regional and district party officials earlier this month.

The membership of the central committee is heavily weighted with reformers and moderates. It is most unlikely, therefore, that it will adopt a party program as retrogressive as the conservatives would wish--even though Dubcek's address indicates there will be significant departures from his liberal reform program.

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