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Czechoslovakia: The fleeting unity achieved at the party central committee plenum last week is again breaking down.

Party leaders fanned out through the country over the weekend to explain the unpopular decisions taken by the central committee. They were far from speaking with one voice, however, and their comments underscore the bitterness of the splits at top party levels, which Slovak first secretary Husak has called deep and dangerous.

Party first secretary Dubcek is trying to heal the wounds. He indicated that he favors attempting to stabilize the country on the basis of economic reform, rather than on the basis of compromises affecting the more controversial issues of individual freedom and rights. Dubcek implied, however, that social and political changes would accompany economic reforms, which will be discussed by the central committee in December.

Other leaders, however, indicated they would put emphasis on political issues before trying to move on to reforms. Conservatives have called for elimination of extremists from the leadership and for a purge of party dissenters. Moderates are espousing popular acceptance of the "new reality" and thus are partly meeting Soviet demands.

Meanwhile, scientists, artists, and newsmen have banded together in Prague to protest against any retreat from liberalization. They have presented the party leadership with an 11-point resolution and plan to meet again on Tuesday, presumably after receiving a response.

Leaders of the recently concluded student strikes believe they have accomplished their objectives, the most important of which was to bridge the normal gap between students and industrial workers. Their statement implies that they are prepared to act in the future if new restrictions should not be to their liking.

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2

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