

Czechoslovakia: Various Czechoslovak leaders met yesterday to prepare for tomorrow's central committee plenum which will consider Prague's response to Soviet pressures to fall in line.

The Czechoslovak national party bureau issued a statement which indicates that the lower levels of the party are deeply divided over the issue, and hints that the plenum may turn into a donnybrook if the central committee members were to reflect accurately the views in their constituencies. The bureau also discussed "organizational problems," which suggest that an attempt will be made to oust extremists.

Liberal presidium member Smrkovsky, anticipating an attempt to oust him at the meeting, has published a lively defense of his conduct in Rude Pravo, the main party daily. He admitted he was wrong in saying that the greater danger to the country came from the hard-liners, rather than from the anti-Soviet ultraliberals. Publication of his generally unrepentant views, however, suggests that at least someone in the top leadership is prepared to try to save him from disgrace at the plenum.

Student protest meetings in Prague yesterday were kept on the campuses, but the resolutions they adopted were squarely against the continued Soviet occupation and showed signs of doubt about the leadership's announced intentions to proceed with the liberal reforms. They also strongly rejected equating anti-Sovietism with anti-Communism, and objected to Brezhnev's doctrine of limited sovereignty. The students' continuing dissent promises to be a source of potential trouble.

The federal, Czech, and Slovak interior ministers seem to be aware of this potential. They met in Prague yesterday to coordinate security measures

16 Apr 69

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

4

SECRET

"for ensuring order" in anticipation of the outcome of the central committee meeting. The announcement of their parley was clearly intended to intimidate those who might protest unpopular decisions by the central committee.

Reports from Moscow now suggest that party chief Dubcek will not visit there before the central committee plenum.



25X1

16 Apr 69

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

5

SECRET