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*Czechoslovakia: The simultaneous visits to Prague by Soviet Premier Kosygin and Marshal Grechko signal a new and perhaps climactic point in the crisis.

The hard bargaining that is certain to take place will probably find the Soviets insisting on some firm commitments from the Czechoslovaks to moderate their recent course. More specifically, Kosygin probably will demand assurances that Prague will effectively suppress, or at least curb, dissidence within and outside the Communist Party.

Kosygin may be prepared in return to respond to Prague's request for a massive and desperately needed loan equivalent to \$400-500 million. According to Czechoslovak Premier Cernik, the Soviets refused a definite commitment for a loan when the Czechoslovak leaders visited Moscow earlier this month, saying that they would have to analyze the proposal.

The presence of Grechko, along with members of the Soviet high military command and commanders of the Soviet forces which have taken up positions near the Czechoslovak borders, will lend visible support to Kosygin's arguments. At least, the show of military brass will remind Prague that the Soviets retain the option of armed intervention in the event no modus vivendi is reached. Soviet units are still ranged around the Czechoslovak border.

Prague apparently got little warning of Kosygin's arrival yesterday for what the Czechoslovaks announced was a "continuation" of earlier talks. Cernik had indicated only four days ago that Kosygin had been invited but that the visit would not take place for some time.

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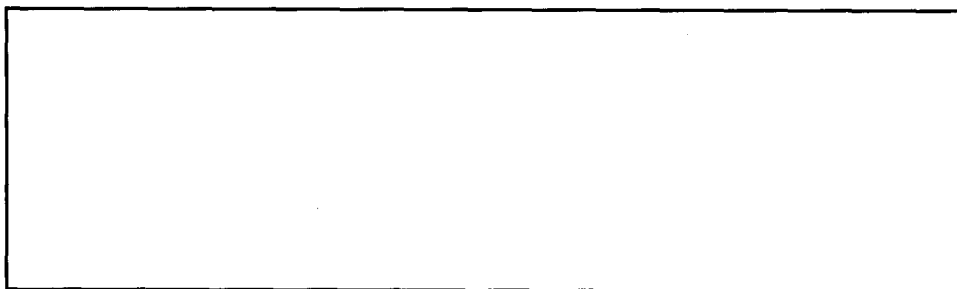
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Conservatives in Czechoslovakia, buoyed by the Soviet pressure tactics of the past week, have now begun to criticize the liberal trend. The recently ousted rector of the party school suggested on 15 May that the government in effect impose some sort of censorship on the press. Conservatives, moreover, may have been connected with the dissemination of leaflets which attack the liberals for attempting to restore a "bourgeois republic."

The liberals, on the other hand, continue to call for the ouster of conservatives from the party's central committee. The controversy doubtless will be intensified in the central committee if it meets as scheduled on 29 May.

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