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USSR-Czechoslovakia: Soviet pressure on Czechoslovakia seems to be on the increase again.

Pravda yesterday accused Cestmir Cisar, a Czechoslovak party secretary, of being revisionist and opportunistic. The article was the first specifically anti-Czechoslovak article since Premier Kosygin's visit last month, and the first public attack the Soviets have made by name on a leading Czechoslovak personality since the new leadership came to power in January. It seems directed at a speech Cisar made on 6 May. This suggests that Moscow has been holding its criticism in reserve for some time.

Earlier in the week Moscow had formally protested an article in a Czechoslovak Catholic party newspaper. The protest amounted to an admonition to the Dubcek regime to curb press freedom. The Soviets are also holding back on a financial loan in what is probably another form of pressure on Prague.

The Soviet decision to end the period of relative calm probably springs from dissatisfaction over the lack of any recent signs that Dubcek is tightening his control over the press or generally slowing down his reform program. While urging restraint on the information media, the Dubcek regime nevertheless has introduced legislation abolishing censorship, and has reasserted its intention to implement other aspects of its action program.

Neither Cisar nor the Czechoslovak press has yet answered Pravda's attack. Yesterday, however, Literarni Listy, the weekly journal of the Czechoslovak Writers' Association, published an article eulogizing Imre Nagy, who led the abortive Hungarian revolution in 1956. This will disturb the Soviets and probably upset Dubcek, the Hungarians, and other Eastern European regimes. The timing is especially awkward for Dubcek, who is presently visiting Budapest to sign a new treaty of friendship and mutual assistance.

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