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France: The Communist Party's concern for its declining position at home probably accounts for its increasing dissatisfaction with Soviet policy.

Distrust of the Soviet Union within the French party, which has previously been one of Moscow's strongest and staunchest supporters, has increased since the French domestic crisis in May. Central committee members apparently feel that Moscow was too easy on De Gaulle during the crisis when he was most vulnerable.

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[REDACTED] The French party believes that Moscow does not understand the European-wide revolt of youth which so seriously troubled the party in May. It even hopes that the Soviet Union will soon be sobered by its own student problems.

The French party also fears that the Soviets may take drastic action in Czechoslovakia. Party leaders believe that the domestic image of the party--which lost over 50 percent of its parliamentary seats in the June elections--would be further damaged as a result of such a Soviet move. Secretary General Waldeck-Rochet, who before the May crisis had resisted demands of party intellectuals to support Prague, reportedly now believes that Soviet intervention might be fatal for the French party.

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