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Czechoslovakia: The Czechoslovak - East German talks at Karlovy Vary apparently did little to improve relations between the two countries.

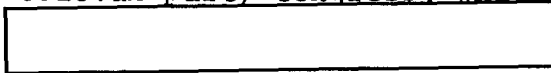
Ulbricht's chilly reception contrasted sharply to the rousing welcome accorded Yugoslavia's Tito in Prague last weekend. It appears that Dubcek and Ulbricht merely recited their respective views. The brief concluding communiqué was uninspiring.

By contrast, Dubcek's meeting with Tito was exceptionally cordial, and concluded with a joint pledge to seek improved relations. The Yugoslavs moreover proposed to assist Prague with some of its economic problems, such as labor supply and construction.

Czechoslovak National Assembly President Smrkovsky stated that the discussions with Ulbricht dwelt on the future and emphasized economic relations. On the latter topic, Ulbricht publicly intimated that there had been differences in outlook.

Ulbricht also implied that Prague had acquiesced in the "conditions" he has repeatedly said the West Germans must meet before any Eastern European country could establish diplomatic relations with them.

Prague will receive Rumanian party chief Ceausescu on 15 August. Dubcek has announced that no further bilateral consultations with the Bratislava participants are planned prior to the Czechoslovak party congress, which opens on 9 September.



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