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Czechoslovakia-USSR: (Information as of 2300 EDT)

The Czechoslovak leadership, moving quickly to put the country on an even keel again, faces the imposing task of convincing the people that the agreement with the Soviets is the best that could be hoped for under the circumstances.

The text of the settlement published yesterday after four days of talks in Moscow provides, in general, for a return to the status quo of before the intervention, but with renewed pledges by the Czechoslovak leadership to observe the Cierna and Bratislava constraints. The Czechoslovak leadership, presumably including the conservatives, will remain in power, and the Soviets have pledged not to interfere in domestic affairs. The occupation troops, however, are to remain until the situation returns to normal, but reportedly will be withdrawn from the centers of cities and towns, as the first of a three-step withdrawal plan. Some Soviet troops may be permanently stationed on the West German border. Press and radio censorship will also be reimposed.

The Czechoslovak leaders, sensing that the agreement is felt to be a betrayal of their nation's week-long resistance to the occupation, pleaded publicly yesterday for unity, understanding and discipline. Both party leader Dubcek and President Svoboda re-endorsed the January and April party central committee plenums, which set in course the reformist Action Program, and vowed not to retreat "as much as one step."

Certain provisions of the settlement, as well as the ambiguities on several important issues, seem indeed to have split the Czechoslovak people, at least temporarily. Several clandestine radios urged ]

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[the people to reject the settlement and Western press correspondents reported heated debates being waged on the streets of Prague.

Last evening, a crowd estimated at between 1,500 and 5,000 marched to Wenceslaus Square shouting "We want the truth," and reportedly ripped down posters of Dubcek and Svoboda. Many bystanders jeered the marchers. The demonstration broke up after a parliamentary deputy reportedly assured them that the National Assembly would not ratify an agreement that infringes the country's freedom of speech or its sovereignty.

Later in the evening, however, emotions evidently cooled. The embassy reported that the radios were saying that many organizations had begun modifying vehement resolutions they had passed earlier in the day. The new party central committee, whose status is unclear under the settlement, joined with Dubcek in appealing for order, as have several other important party and military organizations.

There are no indications that any of the Soviet occupation forces have left Czechoslovakia. In fact, the Soviets appear to have reinforced, rather than rotated, their forces in Czechoslovakia. Since 25-26 August, a Soviet heavy tank division from southern East Germany and unidentified elements from the western USSR have entered western Czechoslovakia.

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