

Czechoslovakia: The Dubcek regime has weathered the first 48 hours of the critical postsettlement period successfully averting, for the moment, outbursts of public indignation.

Prime Minister Cernik and National Assembly president Smrkovsky yesterday joined other leaders pleading for order, understanding, and acceptance of the Moscow agreement. In contrast to the angry and defiant mood of many Czechoslovaks immediately after the agreement was published, the mood yesterday was decidedly calmer. Although bitterness remains just below the surface, most Czechoslovaks have resumed their daily routines, apparently adopting a wait-and-see attitude.

In his address, Cernik divulged more details of the agreement. He confirmed, for example, reports that the interventionist forces are to be withdrawn in several stages. He also indicated, however, that no date for final withdrawal had been set. Within a few days, he said, the government will appeal to the intervening states to agree to talks "as soon as possible" on the withdrawal. Tanyug, the Yugoslav news agency, reported that the Czechoslovaks will meet with Soviet and Eastern European leaders again in Dresden in 10 or 15 days.

Cernik also said that talks will be held in Moscow in the same period on economic problems. These apparently will include proposals for restitution for damages incurred during the intervention.

Dubcek has yet to win formal parliamentary and party endorsement of the Moscow agreement. The National Assembly yesterday adopted an eight-point statement that appears to call for further negotiations with the Soviets and their allies. Nor has the status of the new party central committee elected by last week's 14th congress, which Moscow continues to label illegal, been resolved. Dubcek seems to be]

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[bending to the Soviet position, but is opposed by several district party organizations. Last night, however, the Slovak party congress gave him a boost by calling for reconvening of the congress.

Former Slovak party boss Bilak, a leading conservative, was defended by a prominent liberal at the Slovak congress yesterday. This is consistent with reports that the Soviets have insisted that Bilak and other conservatives must be retained by the Dubcek regime.

In initial commentary on the four-day talks, Soviet media are leaving little doubt that Moscow expects a rapid crackdown on "anti-socialist elements" and "enemies of the people." Commentary stresses the continued "subversive" activity within Czechoslovakia, particularly by the clandestine radio stations.

A Pravda editorial by prominent political commentator Yuri Zhukov stressed the continued activity of the "rabid counterrevolutionaries" and stated that the measures worked out in the course of the negotiations "will facilitate the liquidation of the threat to socialism" in Czechoslovakia. An editorial in Izvestia stressed that the counterrevolution continues and that the Czechoslovak party has the means and forces to cope with it.

There has been no substantial change in the status of the forces deployed in Czechoslovakia, nor have there been any indications that the Soviets are preparing to intervene in Rumania. [] (Map)]

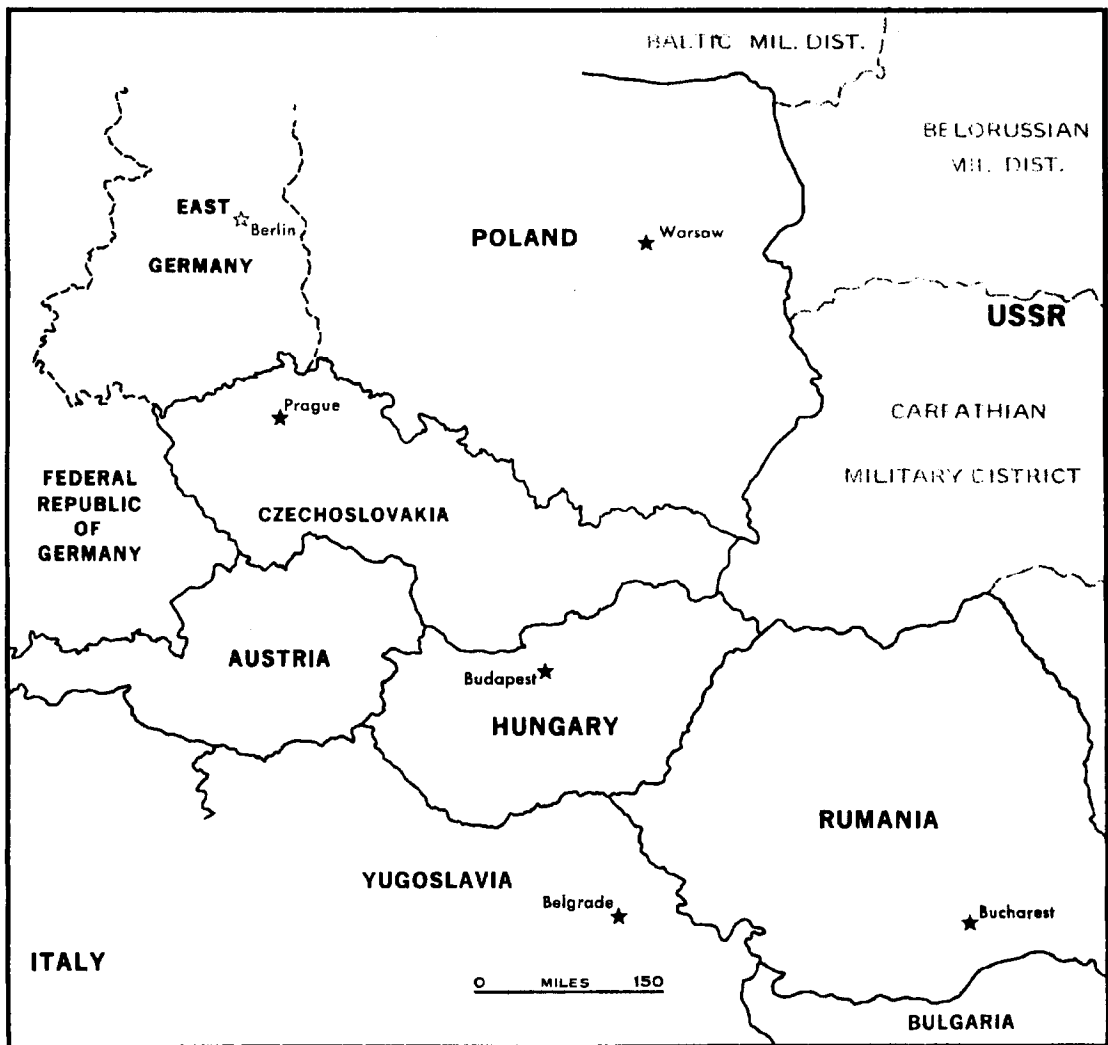
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