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CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS INFLAMES DIVISIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

The invasion of Czechoslovakia by the USSR and its allies has inflamed the already serious differences between Eastern Europe's orthodox Communist regimes and the independent-minded Yugoslavs and Rumanians. The crisis also has revived latent nationalistic emotions in the Balkans. Relations among these states will henceforth be vexed and uncertain.

Belgrade and Bucharest, by insisting that nothing can justify the armed intervention in Czechoslovakia, have provoked unprecedented rebukes from their more doctrinaire neighbors. For the first time, Rumanian party leader Ceausescu has been attacked by name in highly unflattering terms by the Hungarian and Soviet press. Although Yugoslav President Tito has not been so arraigned, both the Yugoslav and Rumanian "leaderships" have come under heavy fire from Soviet, Hungarian, and Bulgarian media for their "unseemly behavior" in joining the "imperialist chorus" demanding an end to the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Soviet bloc representation at various Rumanian National Day diplomatic receptions on 23 August was deliberately minimal, a symptom of the multiply-

ing divisions in Eastern Europe. In contrast to previous years, no press commentary on the Rumanian anniversary appeared in the Polish press.

Bulgaria has further added to the fragmentation of Communist unity, despite the tense atmosphere of the Czechoslovak crisis, by choosing to escalate its longstanding dispute with Yugoslavia over Macedonia. Ordinarily, Sofia is content to state its historical claims to Macedonia in scholarly journals. The day after the invasion of Czechoslovakia, however, Bulgaria's leading party organ directed a major assault at the Macedonian party leadership.

Tito and Ceausescu appear concerned, but undaunted. They presumably agreed during their meeting on 24 August to avoid provoking their adversaries, and probably are preparing for additional ideological, economic, and diplomatic pressures from Moscow and its allies once the Czechoslovak situation stabilizes.

Tito told the US ambassador in Belgrade that Yugoslav-Soviet relations from now on would be devoid of trust and confidence. This fear of treachery and military intervention will henceforth permeate bilateral relations between the states of Eastern Europe.

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