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Poland-Czechoslovakia: Party leader Gomulka apparently has persuaded most of his colleagues and at least one of his rivals to hold to the line publicly that intervention in Czechoslovakia was necessary.

Gomulka and Premier Cyrankiewicz, in speeches over the weekend to factory party organizations in Warsaw, echoed the standard line. They pointed out that intervention was necessary because the alliance between "revisionism" and "imperialist subversion," encouraged mainly by West Germany, had undermined the leading role of the Czechoslovak party. Both claimed that the Polish party, subjected to the same "challenge" earlier this year, had repulsed these efforts, but that it must remain vigilant.

On 15 September, party secretary and hard-line factional leader Moczar, in his first public address since the Warsaw Pact intervention, took much the same line. Provincial party leader Gierek, Moczar's rival for Gomulka's mantle, has also spoken on the Czechoslovak issue within past weeks. None of his remarks have been reported in full by Polish media, suggesting that he may not have taken the official line, even in public.

Gierek and Moczar, who are both nationalistically oriented, are not likely to have favored Polish participation in the Warsaw Pact intervention. Others within the leadership also reportedly were of two minds about the move. Recent speeches by most of these party leaders, however, have also endorsed the official line.

Dissension within the leadership over the Czechoslovak issue undoubtedly continues despite the facade of solidarity. In a private interview with acting Foreign Minister Winiewicz hinted "off the record" that the invasion of Czechoslovakia was a "mistake."

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Winiewicz, like others within the regime who are close to foreign political and economic affairs, fears the impact of Polish participation in the invasion on Warsaw's relations with the non-Communist world.

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