

SECRET

[USSR-Czechoslovakia: The communiqué issued at the conclusion of the summit talks yesterday indicates that Moscow forced further concessions from the Czechoslovaks.

Prague appears to have given ground on two main issues. The communiqué states that Prague "will reinforce the party and state organs with men firmly adhering to positions of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism." This indicates that the Czechoslovaks have agreed to accept conservative and pro-Soviet personalities into the leadership. The Czechoslovaks previously had ousted several leaders on the Soviet blacklist, but in every case had replaced them with other liberals. The communiqué suggests that this tactic will no longer be tolerated by Moscow.

The communiqué also says that the two sides will "consider and sign" a treaty on the "temporary" stationing of troops in Czechoslovakia. "Other troops"--presumably those not included in the semipermanent garrison force--will be withdrawn in "stages." There is no indication that the withdrawal of the remaining troops will be speeded by normalization measures. Despite the use of the word "temporary," the Soviets have made it clear that a Soviet garrison of unspecified size will remain indefinitely.

Moscow bluntly indicated its dissatisfaction with the pace and scope of Czechoslovak compliance with the Moscow agreement of August. The communiqué states that "special attention" was given to this question, and notes that the Czechoslovaks agreed to "take every measure" to fulfill the earlier agreement. This language will again be open to differing interpretations, but it seems probable that Moscow is now determined that Prague act in accordance with its wishes.]

(continued)

5 Oct 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

SECRET

SECRET

[The Soviet leaders also seem to have attained one of their other major goals--setting the stage for the removal of Dubcek. Dubcek's concessions in Moscow will erode his support both within his party and among the population. The communiqué appears certain to alienate President Svoboda and thus to destroy the unified leadership Dubcek had forged. As a consequence of these domestic reactions Dubcek's days as party chief are numbered. Slovak party secretary Husak, who accompanied Dubcek to Moscow, still appears to be the most likely figure to replace him.

* * * *

[Redacted]

25X1

the Soviets are demanding three Czechoslovak training areas as well as housing facilities to be vacated by 10 October. The training areas are located north-east of Prague and in central and eastern Czechoslovakia. [Redacted] the Soviets plan to leave a total of 100,000 men in Czechoslovakia and that the size of the Czechoslovak Army was to be reduced "due to the presence of the Soviet troops."

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

5 Oct 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

4

SECRET