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USSR-Czechoslovakia: Premiers Kosygin and Cernik last night in Prague signed a military agreement which Moscow can now cite as legal authority for the continued presence of its forces in Czechoslovakia.

The text of the treaty has not yet been published, but the Soviet Union reportedly plans to maintain 100,000 Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, mostly in the western part of the country. Kosygin said yesterday that the bulk of Soviet and other Warsaw Pact troops will be withdrawn by stages within the next few months.

According to Western news reports, several questions--such as apportionment of the costs of the occupation, agreement on criminal jurisdiction, and the provision of billeting for the occupation troops--were left open and will be settled later by lower level officials. The Soviets have shown little willingness to accommodate Prague on these matters. Now that Moscow has what it wants--formal Czechoslovak agreement to Soviet troops on its soil--it is unlikely to be more generous.

With the signing of the treaty, Moscow has taken a large step toward carrying out its view of "normalization." The Czechoslovaks have not yet satisfied Moscow's demand that they admit the intervention was justified because of the existence of a "counterrevolutionary" situation. Moscow may direct its next efforts to obtaining such an admission, which would open the gates for a broad purge of the Czechoslovak party and government.

The tough Soviet posture since Dubcek's talks in Moscow on 3-4 October has taken its toll on Czechoslovak morale. [REDACTED] Dubcek and his colleagues were disheartened when faced with unexpected new Soviet demands to cut party membership to the bone, reorganize the party structure, and install new leaders. The talks were reportedly so one-sided that the Czechoslovak party

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presidium subsequently approved the conduct of the delegation, but not the results of the negotiations.

The accounts of these talks have led to a resurgence of party conservatives and at the same time probably are at the root of growing dissidence among the people. Some non-Communist political groups banned since the invasion reportedly have been meeting in secret, and some intellectuals believe it is time that the Czechoslovaks demonstrate more vigorously their disapproval of Prague's growing subservience.

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