

Czechoslovakia: Dubcek is faced with growing dissension within the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

Party presidium members reportedly disagree over the formulations contained in a document being prepared on domestic and foreign policy. They are also said to be arguing over the validity of some major parts of Dubcek's liberal Action Program, and on fixing responsibility for the "mistakes" made after Dubcek took over last January.

Conservative leaders are attempting to force Dubcek to implement all of Moscow's demands and to abandon those reforms that conflict with Soviet objectives. The progressives, on the other hand, are seeking to keep intact as many reforms as possible. There are differences of opinion among the liberals, however, on how far Prague should go in sacrificing Dubcek's program in order to satisfy the Soviets. These disputes could force party officials to postpone a central committee plenum tentatively set for mid-November.

The conservatives, meanwhile, are meeting more openly to prepare for celebrations on 7 November commemorating the Bolshevik revolution and the beginning of Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship month. Several new splinter groups and publications are now promoting the cause of the hard liners. Some liberal elements within the party are already criticizing Dubcek for allowing the conservatives to organize and, subsequently, for his failure to take measures to curb their drive for power.

Moscow may well be hoping that the combination of the dissension within the Czechoslovak leadership and an increase in conservative strength will eventually result in Dubcek's ouster and the installation of a pro-Soviet conservative leadership.

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