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Czechoslovakia: A threatened strike by railroad engineers is symptomatic of the growing dissatisfaction in Czechoslovakia because of the Dubcek regime's retreat from its reform program.

The engineers stated yesterday that they made their threat because the government had backtracked on recognizing their union, which is trying to split away from the parent railway organization. Their statement had anti-Soviet overtones; it noted that the government had allowed the union to be formed and had even provided it offices before the Soviet invasion. The party's main daily has already denounced the threatened strike.

One of the more vocal proponents of reform, party presidium member Josef Smrkovsky, has meanwhile had to deny rumors that he intends to resign. The tone of Smrkovsky's denial suggests he is challenging his opponents to force him from his posts.

Dubcek's basic problem--resolving the fundamental differences between his views and those of the Soviet Union--was again highlighted by the contrast in the treatment given by the Prague and Moscow press to the 25th anniversary of the Czechoslovak-Soviet treaty. While acknowledging the "inviolability" of Prague's alliance with Moscow, Rude Pravo stated that it expected and hoped the Soviet Union would acknowledge Prague's endeavors to strengthen the sovereignty and independence of Czechoslovakia. The official Soviet statement, however, stressed that cooperation of the two countries rested on the principles of "proletarian internationalism" and the "supreme interests of the socialist community."

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