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Warsaw Pact: Some Soviet combat troops have entered Czechoslovakia to participate in the command-staff exercise that began on 20 June. Prague announced on 23 June that a Soviet tank unit has taken up a position in the western part of the country. According to another Prague announcement, motorized rifle units were to move into Czechoslovakia over the weekend. The statement did not indicate the nationality of the rifle units.

Polish, Czechoslovak, East German, and Hungarian forces are also involved in the Pact exercise, which reportedly will be completed by the end of the month.

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Czechoslovakia: The dismissal last week of four deputy ministers of the interior is further evidence that Dubcek intends to remove those appointees of ex-party boss Novotny who will not adjust to the new situation as well as officials compromised by a "Stalinist past." Interior Minister Pavel announced earlier that 250 employees of the ministry had been dismissed because they had been involved in past illegalities. He added that other officials "still do not want to understand the changes in the present wave of democratization." Presumably some of those dismissed on the 21st were among the latter.

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