

Czechoslovakia: Party leader Dubcek further stamped the Czechoslovak regime with his own image at the four-day central committee plenum which ended on 1 June.

In a resolution which reflected many of the moderate Dubcek's views, the plenum reaffirmed that the party will implement its action program, but once more cautioned that time is required to solve the problems facing Czechoslovakia. The resolution stressed the leading role of the party and vowed to repel all attempts to discredit the party as a whole. It criticized those who are attempting to misuse the "democratization process," and set 9 September as the date for the extraordinary party congress which will elect a new central committee. Delegates to the congress will be elected in July by regional and municipal conferences.

Again reflecting the views of Dubcek, the plenum stressed the values of socialism for Czechoslovakia, but reported that "democracy is just as inseparable from socialism as socialism is from democracy." The central committee also repeated Dubcek's admonition that Czechoslovakia will not return to its old position.

The party reported that Prague is introducing "more initiative into Czechoslovak foreign policy," but avowed that Czechoslovakia's "independence, sovereignty, and security" depend on the firmness of its ties with the "friendly socialist countries, primarily with the Soviet Union." The ambiguity introduced by the use of "friendly" again points out that Prague's relations with some of the Warsaw Pact countries, notably East Germany, remain strained.

The plenum completed the process of removing several supporters of ex-party chief Novotny from their positions on central committee commissions. It also accepted the resignations of several other

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conservatives from the central committee itself, and that of Martin Vaculik from his alternate presidium post. The liberal-minded Zdenek Mlynar, who has recently advocated several far-reaching constitutional and legal changes, was elevated to party secretary and made chairman of the party's legal commission. Former premier Lenart was named to head the important ideological commission.

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