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Czechoslovakia: The authorities in Prague are dealing more confidently with the Soviet occupiers and their sympathizers.

The government has decided to take action against individuals responsible for distributing clandestine pro-Soviet and conservative publications which technically are illegal. These publications include Zpravy, the official paper of the Soviet occupation forces, and anonymous publications that have slandered some Czechoslovak leaders.

Three prominent conservatives have been put on the defensive. Youth organizations in Prague have filed a libel suit against party secretary Alois Indra for suggesting that the death by fire of the student martyr, Jan Palach, and youth and journalist meetings in Prague were all progressive plots organized by one "stage director."

Vilem Novy, another outspoken hard-liner, has said that he has been "misunderstood" and has decided to retire from membership in the central committee and the federal assembly. Former deputy interior minister Viliam Salgovic, who was charged with collaboration last August, has denied that he had a role in the invasion and has declared his support for Dubcek's reform program.

Czechoslovak officials appear to have fared much better than the population had expected during recent negotiations with the Soviets to iron out housekeeping details of the occupation. For example, the Czechoslovaks reportedly managed to get postponed a decision to build new housing for Soviet officers by arguing that the decision would contradict the basic treaty agreement on the "temporary" nature of the occupation. The Czechoslovaks

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have announced that the various Soviet command headquarters in Prague districts would be consolidated into a single headquarters "in a few days." The leadership also has announced it had requested that Soviet soldiers--like Czechoslovak soldiers--should not be allowed to carry live ammunition when off duty.

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