

SECRET

Czechoslovakia: Czechoslovak leaders have gone to Bratislava to witness the signing of the federalization bill today. The leadership delegation, which includes Dubcek, President Svoboda, and Premier Cernik, probably will also take part in Slovak commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Czechoslovak first republic.

The federalization bill calls for separate Czech and Slovak national governments under a reduced central government in Prague. The legislation, however, is incomplete and many problems must be resolved before the new system is introduced on 1 January 1969. Czechs and Slovaks have not yet come to an agreement on the responsibilities to be given to a bicameral National Assembly, or on the detailed division of powers between the federal government and the respective national governments.

[ There was an anti-Soviet demonstration last night in Bratislava after the Czechoslovak leaders had arrived. Soviet troops did not intervene, however, and thus far the occupation command appears content to let local authorities handle the situation. More demonstrations are expected in Bratislava today as the Slovaks mark the 50th anniversary of their decision to form a common state with the Czechs. ]

The anti-Soviet demonstrations on 28 October were nationwide. In Prague they appear to have been led by a few hundred students who attracted additional marchers at various times. There were apparently no injuries or property damage. Some 85 Prague youths were arrested, but later released. Although the demonstrations did not develop into riots, the Soviets and the Czechoslovak conservatives may consider that at least they illustrated the leadership's lack of control. Moscow may use the anniversary incidents as a lever to exert new pressures on the Czechoslovaks to hasten the pace of "normalization."

25X1

SECRET