Czechoslovakia-USSR: Czechoslovak youths demonstrated in Prague yesterday without provoking reprisals from the occupation troops.

A crowd of students and young workers that fluctuated between 1,000-3,000 marched from the center of Prague to Hradcany Castle, the presidential residence, where Czechoslovak leaders were hosting a reception on the 50th anniversary of the first republic. The demonstrators, defying a ban of public assemblies on the anniversary, filtered through several police barriers en route to the castle. No Soviet troops were seen in the area, although Soviet Army staff cars monitored the progress of the march.

Several hundred youths demonstrated in downtown Prague in the afternoon. They proceeded toward the Soviet Embassy, but were repelled by police who threatened to use clubs and make arrests if the demonstrators went any further. [In the evening, an estimated 3,000 demonstrators gathered in the vicinity of Prague's National Theater, where Dubcek and Svoboda attended a special performance.]

In an effort to project an image of political normalcy, the Soviets gave the anniversary standard treatment in the press. A brief congratulatory message from Soviet President Podgorny to President Svoboda appeared in Pravda. In addition, Izvestia on 27 October carried an article on the anniversary by Premier Cernik, and Pravda printed a similar article by Svoboda yesterday. Both articles contained a subdued defense of Dubcek's liberal policies and refrained from mentioning the invasion.

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The USSR has allocated 1.6 million tons of grain to meet Czechoslovakia's requirements for 1969, 300,000 tons more than the quota for 1968. Approximately one fourth of this amount, however, will be

sent by the end of 1968. Although Radio Prague alleges that these additional imports will eliminate Czechoslovakia's dependence on grain from capitalist countries and thus save foreign exchange, it is likely that feed-grain imports from the West will continue.

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