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Czechoslovakia-USSR: The Czechoslovak party presidium continues efforts to return the atmosphere within the country to normal.

The presidium has issued a communiqué which terms the Bratislava meeting a success. The communiqué, however, is more guarded about Cierna, saying only that a comprehensive and fruitful exchange of views, ending in important conclusions for further cooperation, had taken place there with the Soviets.

The presidium expressed the expectation that news media would continue to exercise voluntary restraint on domestic matters, but would be particularly careful when reporting on foreign affairs. The extent of such restraint on foreign affairs can be measured by Prague radio's neutral reporting, without commentary, of the communiqué on the Cierna and Bratislava talks issued on 6 August by the Soviet politburo. In the recent past, Prague radio might have chosen to reply to the Soviet implication that events in Czechoslovakia would bear watching.

The Czechoslovaks are still interpreting various statements they have made about the two conferences. Yesterday, for example, Defense Minister Dzur amplified Premier Cernik's earlier indication that Czechoslovakia would improve its defense potential. Dzur said that between now and 1970 no increase was planned in the army or in the military budget. This appears to be a concession which may lead to trouble with liberal politicians and economists, many of whom have been pressing for reductions.

The Czechs are also redirecting their attention to economic problems. Premier Cernik has acknowledged his nation's dependence on its CEMA partners for raw materials and food supplies and as a market

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for its machinery and equipment, but noted that CEMA remains in need of a substantial overhaul. Foreign Minister Hajek stressed in an interview on 6 August that strengthened trade ties within CEMA did not, however, preclude expanded trade with the West.

If the top-level meeting of CEMA member countries called for in the Bratislava communiqué is held in the near future, Czechoslovakia may expect to discuss new forms of assistance for its economic reform. The perennial intra-CEMA issues of pricing, establishment of partial currency convertibility, and policy on trade with the West may also come under discussion.

President Tito of Yugoslavia will visit Prague, in a show of support, from 9 to 11 August. Rumanian party boss Ceausescu is also widely rumored to have plans for a visit after Tito's for the purpose of signing a treaty of friendship and mutual assistance. The Rumanians appear to be disgruntled about the results of the Bratislava meeting and the fact that they were not invited to attend.

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