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[Czechoslovakia-USSR: The meeting of the Czechoslovak party presidium and the Soviet politburo may be going on, under pressure of further Soviet military moves.

Prague Radio announced yesterday afternoon that most of the Czechoslovak presidium had left for the meeting and would be joined by the rest on the spot. President Ludvik Svoboda also was included in the delegation. The Soviet leaders may be traveling by train. Western news reports indicate that the meeting will take place aboard a special Czechoslovak train.

The site of the confrontation is the Slovakian village of Cierna, just across the border from the Soviet railroad town of Chop, according to a report of a Bratislava radiobroadcast. [REDACTED]

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Neither Prague nor Moscow showed any signs of give in their respective positions as the time for the meeting approached. On 27 July, Czechoslovak party leader Dubcek assured the nation over radio and television that the presidium intended to stand firm, especially in view of the massive citizen support he had received in the past few days. Despite official disclaimers, rumors persist that the presidium is split over how to deal with the Soviets.

Even as the presidium left for the meeting, the Soviet propaganda barrage continued, apparently hoping to convince Czechoslovak conservatives that Moscow will be obliged to intervene if the conservatives do not act to reverse the process of "democratization." On Sunday, Pravda called on the Czechoslovaks]

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[to "bar the way to counterrevolution," and threateningly added that "the Communists and working people of Czechoslovakia" are warned "that there is no time to waste." Pravda implicitly linked its demands to the politburo-presidium confrontation, emphasizing that "our party and our people attach much importance to that meeting." Moscow probably hopes that it can intimidate some of the more conservative members of the presidium who may be wavering in their support of Dubcek.

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