[USSR-Czechoslovakia: A Soviet poetess, Natalia Gorbanevskaya, has sent a letter to Rude Pravo and a number of Western newspapers, describing a demonstration on 25 August in Moscow by a group of intellectuals against the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

She says the demonstration was designed to let the Czechoslovaks know that not all Soviet citizens approve the action taken in their name by the Soviet Government. The demonstrators, sitting in Red Square near the exit from which the Czechoslovak delegation was to depart the Kremlin that evening, displayed placards supporting Czechoslovakia's cause. They were set upon by a squad of secret police who shouted "They are all Jews! Beat the anti-Soviets!", and enthusiastically roughed up the unresisting demonstrators in the process of arresting them.

The US Embassy in Moscow has also heard of the arrest of about a dozen individuals in Leningrad who circulated a petition supporting the Czechoslovak reform and who have been charged with "anti-Soviet agitation." There is also a report that "something similar happened in Gorky," but no details are available.

There are also faint sounds of discord over the Czechoslovak issue at the official level. Pravda and most other publications have been tracing the trouble in Czechoslovakia exclusively to a "counter-revolutionary" minority connected with "Western imperialists." Trud and Komsomolskaya Pravda, on the other hand, have published reports quoting denials by Czechoslovak citizens that there was ever any danger of "counterrevolution." These reports also reveal that Czechoslovak bitterness over the intervention is widespread. Both of these newspapers could be expected to be particularly responsive to the instructions of politburo member Shelepin, who has been reported to have been one of those opposed to military intervention. Although more solid signs]

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[on Shelepin's position are lacking, his political ambitions have been frustrated under the Brezhnev leadership and he could have an interest in showing that it has mismanaged the Czechoslovak problem.

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