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Yugoslavia-Rumania: The invasion of Czechoslovakia has shattered the fragile facade of unity between Eastern Europe's orthodox and independent-minded Communist regimes.

In a conversation with the US ambassador on 23 August, Yugoslavia's President Tito said that Yugoslav-Soviet relations from now on would be devoid of the trust and confidence that had been slowly building up. Tito appears to believe that the Soviet decision to intervene in Czechoslovakia will be more damaging to international Communism than was Yugoslavia's expulsion from the Cominform in 1948.

There also are signs that Rumania's relations with its nominal allies in the Warsaw Pact have suffered a further decline. For the first time Rumanian leader Ceausescu has been attacked by name in the Soviet and Hungarian press. Moreover, the Soviet bloc was represented at Rumanian National Day receptions on 23 August at various diplomatic posts mainly by lower level officials. In contrast with previous years, no press commentary on the Rumanian anniversary appeared in the Polish press.

In the face of mounting criticism, Tito and Ceausescu "exchanged views" on 24 August at the Yugoslav border town of Vrsac. The two leaders presumably coordinated future contingency plans in the light of the Czechoslovak crisis.

Rumania and Yugoslavia, having demonstrated their firm adherence to principle, probably will not take any further steps that would overdramatize their position, and certainly would not wish to risk provoking the Soviet Army into action. Bucharest has denied that its army is mobilized, and a number of Rumanian officials, including Premier Maurer, do not see any "immediate" danger of armed intervention in Rumania. [There is no hard evidence of any military build-up along Rumania's frontiers.]

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