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[Czechoslovakia-USSR: European Communists appear to be more sharply split than ever following publication of the demands of the USSR and four of its allies which would turn back the political clock in Czechoslovakia.

Yesterday the French Communist Party issued an urgent call for a conference of European parties on Czechoslovak developments. The French party's proposal was made after party leader Waldeck-Rochet, who had returned from a hurried visit to Moscow yesterday, met with his politburo. It is doubtful that he acted at Soviet instigation. Waldeck-Rochet reportedly went to the USSR to warn about the potentially disastrous effects on his party of further Soviet interference in Czechoslovak affairs.

The French party's call for a conference came after the British, Italian, Belgian, Rumanian, and Yugoslav parties had indicated dismay at the prospect of fuller Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia. Waldeck-Rochet reportedly will travel to Prague on 19 July. Yugoslavia's Tito reportedly is to arrive in Czechoslovakia today, in response to an appeal from Czechoslovak party leader Dubcek. Rumania's Ceausescu also may arrive at about the same time as Tito. The Italian, Austrian, and Swiss parties have already responded favorably to the French party's proposal for the conference. Others, such as the Dutch party, are considering their positions.

The letter sent to Prague by participants in the 14-15 July meeting in Warsaw was not the "conciliatory but firm" document predicted by Poland's premier. It charged that political activities in Czechoslovakia were aimed at the foundations of Communism in the country and had not met with any effective rebuff from the party leadership. The signers, leaders of East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, and the USSR, asserted they could not stand aside while "imperialism" made a breach in]

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[the socialist system, "by peaceful or unpeaceful means, from inside or outside," which would change power relations in Europe. Such developments, the letter said, threatened the security of the whole socialist system.

The signers demanded that the Czechoslovak party take four steps to redress the situation: resolutely attack right-wing and antisocialist forces, mobilize all the power of the state in defense of Communism, reimpose party control of news media, and return to operation of the party on the basis of Soviet-style principles--including that of complete centralization of power. The letter made no mention, however, of what action the five would take if Prague failed to heed these demands, suggesting that the crisis is still in the talking stage.

The Soviet leadership hastily convened the Communist Party central committee yesterday to add the weight of its formal endorsement to the Warsaw joint letter. A partial text of the committee's resolution broadcast last night repeated the warnings of the letter in more general but no less stern terms. The sketchy information thus far available on the meeting does not indicate whether Brezhnev, who made the major speech, sought central committee approval for any specific policy moves in the future.

Czechoslovak sensitivity to the presence of Soviet troops is high. A top party spokesman has publicly accused Soviet Marshal Yakubovsky of having broken his word to Dubcek by interrupting withdrawals on 14 July. Noting that Yakubovsky's complete staff and facilities were still operational in Czechoslovakia, the spokesman added that the Soviet marshal would again fail to keep his word if all Soviet military forces had not departed by 21 July.

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