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Czechoslovakia: Prague is publicizing the forthcoming Warsaw Pact exercise but apparently has not allayed fears that the USSR will use the exercise to cover military intervention.

In a highly unusual move, the Ministry of Defense appointed a special spokesman, Major General Cepicky, to handle publicity for the exercise, and has been more forthcoming in providing information than ever before. The statements Cepicky has thus far issued, however, have been vague in certain respects, particularly regarding the numbers and types of Soviet troops which will be in Czechoslovakia.

Cepicky has tried to clarify what Minister of Defense Dzur meant by "support" and "marker" units associated with the exercise. He said that "support" troops consist primarily of communications units. Some such Soviet forces are already in Czechoslovakia. "Marker" units, he said, are combat troops from motorized rifle units which will be used to verify the "feasibility" of plans and decisions. According to Dzur, these will be primarily Czechoslovak troops.

Cepicky has explained that "it cannot be excluded" that "one or another tank company" will participate. He has not specified nationality, but yesterday he again denied that Soviet tanks are in Czechoslovakia now.

Cepicky has acknowledged that a "minimum" number of troops from Czechoslovakia, the USSR, Hungary, and Poland will take part in the exercise. This seems to rule out East German forces. The exercise will take place in the second half of June, will last several days, and will be held largely in military training areas in Czechoslovakia.

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