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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Prague seems to have given Moscow some reassurance on Czechoslovakia's future role in the Warsaw Pact.

At the close of Soviet Defense Minister Grechko's visit from 17 to 22 May to Prague, Czechoslovak Defense Minister Dzur stated that the Czechoslovak Army would participate in "fair-sized maneuvers" this summer. Earlier in the month, he had said that only "staff exercises" would be held in Czechoslovakia. He has now indicated that large-scale exercises with big contingents of troops are ruled out.

Dzur implied that the Grechko delegation had understood Prague's reluctance to hold Warsaw Pact exercises on Czechoslovak territory during the politically sensitive period since January. Later, Dzur said that the Soviet delegation had "avoided any question" that would imply a "desire to interfere in our problems or to give us particular advice. We talked as equals." The communiqué indicates that the exchanges probably were not as cordial as Dzur claims, but suggests that the Soviets are still some distance away from using force to get their way in Prague. Soviet troops, nevertheless, remain on Czechoslovakia's borders, presumably to add weight to the words of visiting Soviet Premier Kosygin.

Kosygin may not be receiving much satisfaction on political problems. The Czechoslovaks are proceeding with implementation of the party action program as if a military threat did not exist. In their most recent declarations, however, they have paid attention to the need for controlling anti-Communist political voices, while leveling their attacks on the party conservatives. Non-party political "clubs," for example, continue to flourish.

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