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COMMUNIST DISUNITY APPARENT AT BUDAPEST CONFERENCE

The meeting of Communist parties in Budapest last week was distinguished more by strife than by the "comradely exchange" noted in the final communiqué.

According to information reaching the US Embassy in Budapest, the Russian and Hungarian delegates succeeded only with great difficulty in dissuading the Czechoslovaks from walking out after an acrimonious clash with the East Germans. The Czechoslovaks not only refused to agree to withhold publicity of the proceedings, but went out of their way to ridicule attempts to work "behind closed doors."

One participant is said to have stated that if it were not for the Vietnam issue, there would have been no unifying topic.

Zoltan Komocsin, the Hungarian party secretary in charge of the arrangements, reportedly gave a rather bleak account of his unavailing efforts to secure wider attendance. Only seven of the 14 ruling Communist parties sent delegates to the five-day meet-

ing. Once again, Moscow found it necessary to pad the list of participants with such parties as those from Lesotho, Martinique, and Puerto Rico in order to reach a respectable count--this time 54.

Last week's meeting scheduled the opening of a world conference of Communist parties for 25 November in Moscow, set up a "working group" to prepare documents, and decided to hold another preparatory meeting in September.

The difficulties the Soviets encountered at Budapest are indicative of the arduous, uphill battle they face. A number of parties will probably support Prague and insist on frank, open discussions--the Italians have already made a gesture in this direction. Many other hurdles also remain in Moscow's path. The Yugoslavs, even as Tito was in Moscow preparing to hold talks with the Soviet leaders, scorned the Budapest gathering, and immediately after its close announced they would not attend the world meeting.

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