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Czechoslovakia: The Dubcek experiment to fuse socialism with democracy is over.

The "realism" of new party first secretary Gustav Husak replaces the idealism of Alexander Dubcek. To most Czechoslovaks, the change means succumbing to Soviet pressures with a new leadership responsive to Moscow's demands. There has been no reaction from Moscow yet, but the Soviets probably are pleased.

The central committee reduced the size of the party presidium from 23 to 11 members, in the process removing from power 11 of Dubcek's moderate and liberal supporters.

The new leadership is dominated by "realists," most of whom, like Husak, believe that the only feasible course is cooperation with Moscow. Dubcek was named to the new presidium, but the outspoken Josef Smrkovsky was dropped. The shifts probably presage similar changes in the government leadership. Future domestic policies will probably reflect Soviet desires for "normalization," that is, strict party control over all aspects of life.

Husak, the 55-year-old Slovak party boss, has a reputation as a pragmatic authoritarian and so fierce a Slovak nationalist that he spent the years 1954-60 in jail. He advocates closely controlled reform. In his maiden speech, Husak said that his administration would not abandon the reforms begun in 1968, but that their continuation was absolutely dependent on an end to anti-Soviet dissidence. He intends to review reform programs, and warned that under his leadership liberty would not be "without limits."

Husak faces an uphill task. He must try to convince the people that the changes are for the

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best. In order to be effective, he must overcome the distrust of the Czechs, many of whom despise his Slovak nationalism as well as his attacks on the liberal mass media. President Svoboda tried to smooth the way for Husak by giving him his strong personal endorsement.

Prague was quiet last night. The airport was closed and Czechoslovak Army convoys were reported to be moving into the city. Only a trickle of people passed through Wenceslaus Square after police chased away a band of 200 derisive young people. The general public may well turn sadly and fearfully away from politics following the ouster of Smrkovsky and the demotion of Dubcek--the champions of their hopes.

Young workers and students are likely to be less tractable. They are aroused and their reactions cannot be safely predicted. Police intimidation and the apparent futility of continuing further resistance, however, may mean that their opposition will not be serious enough even to embarrass the new regime.

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GUSTAV HUSAK
New Party First Secretary

CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY
as of 17 April 1969

First Secretary

Husak, Gustav (M)

Members of the Presidium

Cernik, Oldrich (M)
Erban, Evzen (M)
Piller, Jan (C)
Polacek, Karel (L)
Strougal, Lubomir (C)
Svoboda, Ludvik (M)

Bilak, Vasil (C)
Colotka, Peter (M)
Dubcek, Alexander (M)
Husak, Gustav (M)
Sadovsky, Stefan (M)

Both Czech & Slovak leaders shown;
Slovaks in italics

M-Moderate
L-Liberal
C-Conservative

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