

CZECHOSLOVAKIA CALM AFTER LEADERSHIP SHUFFLE

New party leader Gustav Husak has outlined in broad terms the retrogressive measures that he will initiate to put Czechoslovakia back on a road acceptable to the Soviets. Despite his foreboding remarks, the anxious and disillusioned population has remained passive except for so far relatively harmless but widespread student sit-ins protesting the fall of Dubcek.

Husak said that his administration would take immediate steps to assert greater party control over society, first of all silencing the news media and heading off public manifestations of anti-Soviet sentiment. The regime began its clampdown by initiating tighter border regulations, jamming Radio Free Europe broadcasts, and banning a number of dissident publications, including the party's outspoken weekly journal, Politika. Husak also assigned a pro-Soviet conservative as editor-in-chief of the main party daily, Rude Pravo, a move that virtually assures the conservatives control of the paper. Numerous other changes in the party apparatus and in the government may be in the offing during the next few weeks.

Students throughout western Czechoslovakia last week conducted peaceful sit-ins on their campuses, but there were no indications that they were considering more demonstrative protests. Husak was tolerant of the students, apparently hoping that a "hands off" policy would give him time to consolidate his re-

gime. Student leaders have mixed emotions about the Husak administration and some of them are taking a "wait-and-see" attitude.

Rank-and-file young workers--normally aligned with the students--apparently decided not to take part in the student strikes, thus further reducing the possibility of a concerted anti-Husak movement. Trade union leaders, who have offered their support to Husak, warned the workers to refrain from demonstrating and to avoid protest meetings.

The new leadership tried to take some of the sting out of Dubcek's demotion by nominating him for the post of president of the National Assembly, a position presently held by Slovak moderate Peter Colotka. This move might pave the way, at a later date, for Dubcek's complete removal from the party hierarchy. Colotka, in turn, was recommended for the post of first deputy premier of the federal government in Prague.

Pro-Soviet conservatives do not seem to have made substantial gains during the personnel shifts on 17 April, but their influence as a minority pressure group has improved considerably. They have won a major victory inasmuch as enough people in the central committee joined them to remove Dubcek and his liberal and moderate followers from the top leadership bodies. Moreover, the conservatives undoubtedly regard Husak's election as a significant step toward gaining control

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of the leadership themselves, even though no prominent hard liners were elevated to the streamlined presidium.

The Russians have given Husak their preliminary approval, including a strong endorsement from Brezhnev. Nevertheless, Husak probably was not Moscow's first choice to replace Dubcek, and the Soviets may have reservations about the intentions of the new party leaders. As an

ardent Slovak nationalist, Husak will cooperate with the Russians to the extent that their demands do not interfere with his own objectives. Moreover, the dynamic, intelligent, and sophisticated Husak does not think in the same rigid ideological pattern as do most of the Soviet leaders with whom he will be dealing. Consequently, further clashes between Prague and Moscow over conflicting methods and goals appear inevitable.

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CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY (KSC)
as of 17 April 1969

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PRESIDUM	
Cernik, Oldrich (M)	Sadovsky, Stefan (M)
Dubcek, Alexander (M)	Smrkovsky, Josef (L)
Erban, Evzen (M)	Svoboda, Ludvik (M)
Husak, Gustav (M)	Strougal, Lubomir (C)

MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM

<u>Bilak, Vasil (C)</u>	Kabrna, Vladimir (L)	Slavik, Vaclav (L)
Cernik, Oldrich (M)	Neubert, Karel (C)	Smrkovsky, Josef (L)
<u>Colotka, Peter (M)</u>	Piller, Jan (C)	Spacek, Josef (L)
<u>Dubcek, Alexander (M)</u>	Pinkava, Josef (L)	Strougal, Lubomir (C)
Erban, Evzen (M)	Polacek, Karel (L)	Svoboda, Ludvik (Honorary) (M)
<u>Hettes, Jarolim (L)</u>	Sadovsky, Stefan (M)	Fazky, Anton (L)
Hrdinova, Libuse (L)	Simecek, Vaclav (L)	Zrak, Jozef (L)
<u>Husak, Gustav (M)</u>	Simon, Bohumil (L)	

FIRST SECRETARY

Dubcek, Alexander (M)
Husak, Gustav (M)

SECRETARIES

<u>Bilak, Vasil (C)</u>	<u>Lenart, Jozef (C)</u>
<u>Hettes, Jarolim (L)</u>	<u>Penc, Frantisek (L)</u>
<u>Indra, Alois (C)</u>	<u>Spacek, Josef (L)</u>
<u>Kempny, Josef (L)</u>	<u>Strougal, Lubomir (C)</u>

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT

Sekera, Jiri (L) Slavik, Vaclav (L)

*Both Czech & Slovak leaders shown; Slovaks underlined
Red reflects personnel shifts on 17 April*

M - Moderate C - Conservative L - Liberal

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