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## PRAGUE STILL PARRIES SOVIET PRESSURES

The virtually simultaneous arrival in Prague last Friday of Premier Kosygin and a high-level Soviet military delegation suggested Moscow had made an urgent and possibly climactic effort to check what it considered to be a deteriorating situation in Czechoslovakia.

The visits were the latest in a series of confrontations. Moscow presumably is now seeking more than the verbal assurances with which Prague has responded to earlier Soviet criticisms. While the leaders talked, Moscow maintained the psychological pressure by keeping most of its military units in place near the Czechoslovak borders. Reports in Soviet and Polish news media that a joint Soviet-Polish Warsaw Pact exercise took place in southern Poland were a belated Soviet attempt to explain the deployment of its troops to the Czechoslovak-Polish border.

The military delegation, headed by Minister of Defense Grechko, probably pressed Prague for evidence of its intention to continue cooperation with the Warsaw Pact and apparently got some relatively modest concessions. Czechoslovak Minister of Defense Dzur announced on 21 May that Prague would participate in "fair sized" maneuvers this summer. He added, however, that the maneuvers would not involve "big contingents" of troops. Dzur also stated that he would head a military delegation to the So-

viet Union, which suggests that the question of military cooperation is not yet completely settled.

There are no signs that Kosygin, who is scheduled to remain in Czechoslovakia until at least 28 May, and the Czechoslovak leaders are making much progress in their negotiations. A Czechoslovak spokesman said last week that the USSR is still considering Prague's request for a foreign currency credit equivalent to \$400-500 million. If the USSR withholds the credit or refuses to assure the continued supply of raw materials to Czechoslovakia, Prague's probes for economic aid from the West probably will be accelerated.

Kosygin is probably demanding that the Czechoslovak leaders suppress opposition to and criticism of the party. Thus far, the Czechoslovaks have held their ground.

Factional fighting within the Czechoslovak party may come to a climax during a central committee plenum which begins on 29 May. Liberals have added to their earlier pressure by calling upon the conservatives to resign voluntarily.

The party presidium reportedly has decided to recommend that an extraordinary congress be convened at which the liberals could move against the conservatives. Dubcek, however, will

SECRET

SECRET

probably oppose the attempt by liberals to force the factional issue at the plenum, particularly because he is under Soviet pressure to rein them in.

The conservatives have recently been more outspoken in

criticizing the liberal trend, and there are no signs that they intend to resign. Diplomats in Prague believe the conservatives' strength has been underrated, and speculate that they will be maneuvering actively at the plenum.

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