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CZECHOSLOVAKS MAKE NEW CONCESSIONS TO SOVIET UNION

The Dubcek leadership is making new concessions to Moscow, and will probably lose more of its popularity in the process.

The party central committee, which opened its plenum on 14 November, is reviewing a draft document that calls for a closer adherence to Moscow's interpretation of "normalization." It proposes organizational and personnel changes that will mean, according to one source, "disillusionment for the nation."

Liberal party presidium members Mlynar and Spacek are said to be dejected by Dubcek's acquiescence to Moscow, and Mlynar's resignation may be presented to the meeting. Moreover, a majority of the presidium may be ready to accept more pro-Soviet conservatives into the party leadership.

Before the plenum, the party took several major steps to satisfy the Soviets. It restricted foreign travel, expelled some foreign correspondents, forcibly broke up anti-Soviet demonstrations while sternly warning against any renewed outbreaks, and suspended several major publications critical of the Soviets. There are indications that the hard liners are about to be given a large measure of control over Czechoslovak mass media through

their appointments to key government and media posts.

Czechoslovak youth, concerned over the outcome of the plenum, have threatened to demonstrate throughout the country if decisions taken by the central committee are too favorable to the conservatives. Student leaders are planning a general strike and street demonstrations on 17 November, even though Dubcek and other top leaders--aware that Soviet patience is wearing thin--have warned that any disturbances will be put down with force. Moreover, the youth and workers reportedly have set up committees to arrange joint strikes to protest the Soviet occupation.

Moscow is leaving the initiative at this stage to its conservative allies within the Czechoslovak party, but its support of them is becoming more open. Soviet officers have been much in evidence at the recent demonstrations by Czechoslovak hard liners, and last week the occupation forces added a weekly publication to the Czech-language propaganda daily that they have distributed since the early days of the occupation. The Soviet-run "Radio Vltava" continues to issue daily demands for the suppression of "antisocialists" while praising "true" Communists.

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