Czechoslovakia: Czechoslovak party leader Dubček continued his quest over the weekend for national acquiescence in the Moscow agreement, winning formal party approval for the Soviet-imposed strictures.

In somber addresses to the central committee on 31 August, Dubček and President Svoboda again indicated that the country's liberalization program will be drastically curtailed. Dubček pointed out that in the past the party had failed to take into account "the dark and real power of international factors," and that it must not now arouse suspicions that it is avoiding the "obligations" it accepted at the Moscow meeting. He also admitted that the party congress which had met in secret during the first week of the intervention was void, and announced that it would convene again sometime after 9 September.

For the interval, the leaders enlarged the central committee by adding 80 individuals who had been elected to the defunct central committee by the now-void party congress, and expanded the party's presidium from 11 to 21 members. Several of the pro-Soviet conservatives, including Barbirek, Kolder, Rigo and Svestka, have been dropped from the presidium, as was arch-progressive Kriegel. Several other prominent liberal reformers have also been dropped from the central committee. The complexion of both the central committee and its presidium remains progressive, although the tone of the central committee meeting was one of accommodation to rather than defiance of Soviet wishes.

There were unconfirmed press reports yesterday of a meeting of the Soviet party central committee. Communist sources claimed the meeting was called to mitigate the hostile world reaction to the Soviet intervention, and asserted that the Kremlin was considering a conciliatory gesture. The US Embassy notes that Soviet press commentary on Czechoslovakia over the weekend seemed to be taking some of the...
pressure off by giving greater emphasis than before
to signs that the situation there is returning to
normal. Initial Soviet commentary on the Czecho-
slovak central committee meeting was straightforward
and did not hint at any displeasure over the per-
sonnel changes in the central apparatus.

Aside from an apparent bomb explosion in front
of the Czechoslovak party's newspaper headquarters
on 31 August, the situation in Prague, and throughout
the country, was relatively quiet over the weekend.
There have been no more demonstrations, and youths
are busy painting over anti-Soviet graffiti in an
apparent effort to hasten "normalization" and the
departure of the occupation forces.

There are continued signs of resistance to some
of the more unpopular measures, such as censorship,
which have been introduced in recent days. The
Journalists' Union announced on 1 September that it
will abide by the censorship regulations only for
three months. Two newspapers also announced their
intention to test the limits of permissible publi-
cation. Although there have been several denials
of impending mass arrests of liberal intellectuals,
many prominent individuals apparently have fled the
country, or are not returning to Czechoslovakia from
vacations for the time being.

There has been no significant change in the
deployment of Soviet and Warsaw Pact ground forces
in Czechoslovakia. Some of the Soviet air units
in East Germany that deployed to bases near the
Czechoslovak border in southeastern East Germany
are returning to their home bases. Six convoys
were observed moving north on the autobahns between
31 August and 1 September. All of the convoys in-
cluded air force equipment such as jet engine
starters, mobile control towers, communications vans,
and runway sweepers.

(continued)
Members of the office of the US Defense Attaché in Moscow returning from a late August trip to Arkhangelsk, Odessa, Tbilisi, and Rostov report no evidence of reserve call-ups in these areas. There was no evidence of the redeployment of military units in these areas to western military districts and what military activity that was seen was described as "normal."