Czechoslovakia-USSR: Dubcek and his colleagues are plagued by new problems as the 50th anniversary of the first republic approaches.

They fear that student demonstrations on 28 October will invite reprisals by the occupation forces. The leaders in Prague reportedly have banned all hostile demonstrations and have visited schools to caution students against clashes with pro-Soviet groups who intend to parade in the streets. National Assembly President Smrkovsky has flatly told a student gathering that "if you demonstrate, we all might be sorry." Czechoslovak youth have thus far remained loyal to Dubcek, but they could be taunted by the opposition into riots.

The Dubcek leadership, meanwhile, has made additional concessions to the Soviets. In the first major retreat from the economic reform program, the Czechoslovaks have abandoned their experimental "Workers Councils"—an attempt to stimulate production by giving the workers a greater role in the management of industrial enterprises. In addition, Prague will eschew reforms and retain in the educational system many of the features patterned after the Soviet model which the present leadership had hoped to drop.