

CZECHS DEMAND A BASIC REVISION OF WARSAW PACT

Seek Rotated Command and
a Rule Against Treaty's
Use for Political Ends

SOVIET EXIT IS DELAYED

Last Military Unit Is Now
Expected to Move Across
the Border on Sunday

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PRAGUE, July 15—Czechoslovakia called today for a fundamental revision of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet-led East European military alliance, to insure genuine equality for its members.

The demand was made by Lieut. Gen. Vaclav Prchlik, the Czechoslovak Communist party's chief spokesman on military affairs, at a briefing for Czechoslovak newsmen. Excerpts from the briefing were broadcast tonight by the Prague radio.

According to authoritative sources, Czechoslovakia wants the Warsaw Pact revised with the following aims in view:

¶A rotation of the top command among the member nations. So far, the commander has always been an officer of the Soviet Union. The other pact members are Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania.

¶An amendment to prevent the treaty from being used for political instead of military ends.

General Makes Charge

General Prchlik, who is head of the military department of the Czechoslovak party's Central Committee, said at the briefing that representatives of other member states on the pact's joint command had been limited by the Soviet Union to liaison roles.

He specified that the pact, signed in 1955 as a counterpart to the Western nations' North Atlantic Treaty, must not be used by any group within the pact against another member. This was taken as a clear allusion to last month's Warsaw Pact maneuvers and their aftermath.

The authoritative sources said that Soviet, Polish and Hungarian troops had streamed into Czechoslovakia for the exercises in numbers never fully communicated to Prague. They were said to have used official crossing points as well as some whose use had not been foreseen.

The number of Soviet troops that entered is now estimated at 16,000 soldiers. They brought with them, according to the sources, 4,500 vehicles, 70 tanks and 40 airplanes. Few of the men and little of the equipment are thought to have left the country.

Still a Critical Issue

The continued presence of Soviet forces remains the most critical issue in the tense relations between Prague and Moscow and its allies. General Prchlik said tonight that the Soviet troops would leave Czechoslovakia, but that they had extended their schedule of departure by five days.

The last unit will cross into the Soviet Union Sunday rather than tomorrow, as the Czechoslovak Defense Ministry announced last week, General Prchlik said.

He said that Marshal Ivan I. Yakubovsky, Soviet commander of Warsaw Pact forces, had explained the delay by the fact that he had ordered all troop movements to take place by night to avoid interfering with normal road traffic.

It is still uncertain whether the phrase "the last unit"

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means the last of all the Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia or the last of the current phase of the exodus.

Czechoslovakia announced that some Soviet units of unspecified strength crossed early this morning into East Germany and Poland. The border post commander at the East German border station at Cinovec, 70 miles north of here, confirmed during a visit today that a Soviet unit crossed the frontier 30 minutes after midnight.

General Prchlik was quoted on Prague television as having appealed to the Czechoslovak people not to succumb to a war of nerves and to keep calm. He said, according to the newscaster, "In a war, those who have the stronger nerves and the greater coolness always win in the end."

In this tense atmosphere, which was given a new measure of sharpness with the announcement that five Soviet-bloc nations meeting in Warsaw had dispatched a joint letter to the Czechoslovak party, many Czechoslovaks are rallying to their leadership with expressions of full support.

The uncontrolled press, radio and television made public the texts of resolutions and interviews demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops and endorsing the leadership's refusal to justify its actions at the Warsaw meeting.

Czechoslovakia's reported demands for revision of the Warsaw Pact were similar to demands made earlier by Rumania.

Reliable sources said that Czechoslovakia had received assurances of full support from Rumania as well as from Yugoslavia, which is not a member of the Warsaw Pact. Hungary, according to reports circulating here, has urged the Soviet Union and her other allies to refrain from intervening in Czechoslovakia.

Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek showed recognition of the differentiated attitudes toward Czechoslovakia by her pact partners in an appearance today before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly. He pointedly praised Rumania and Hungary for the respect he said they were showing for the principle of national sovereignty.



Some of the Soviet military units that participated in recent Warsaw Pact maneuvers in Czechoslovakia, crossing the border into Poland on Saturday. Czechoslovak Regime yesterday sought true equality among pact members. Associated Press