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23 November 1966

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USSR: Moscow is keeping alive the question of a special gathering of the world's Communist parties designed to reinforce China's isolation.

An editorial in yesterday's Pravda coupled an attack on Peking's "splitting" activities with an account of the benefits of socialist unity and "collective work." The editorial stated that such collective work is "now becoming an absolute necessity." It repeated Brezhnev's observation at the Bulgarian party congress earlier this month that "a number of parties are expressing the opinion that conditions are ripening for convening a new international conference of Communist and workers' parties."

At the Bulgarian meeting it was evident that Brezhnev's statement, which echoed the opening speech by Bulgarian party leader Zhivkov, did not sit well with all of the more than 70 parties represented. The Rumanian party chief, Ceausescu, responded by urging that nothing be done to add to the disunity of the movement. Several other representatives also reacted negatively. The issue may be aired again at the Hungarian party congress opening next week.

Any special meeting of the world's Communist parties would necessarily take an anti-Chinese turn, which would probably preclude attendance by the Rumanians and other independent-minded parties. Soviet insistence on an early conference might also strain Moscow's relations with some of the more pro-Soviet parties.

The prospects for an early large-scale gathering thus appear slight, and Moscow has not committed its prestige to such a meeting. Nevertheless, the Soviets seem determined to maintain pressure on the reluctant minority.

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Jordan-Egypt-Syria: Egyptian and Syrian propaganda media are taking advantage of continuing unrest in Jordan to encourage uprisings against King Husayn.

Jordanian authorities have been able, thus far, to maintain control by vigorous action against antiregime demonstrators. There have been almost daily demonstrations in Nablus, a center of chronic unrest in Palestinian west Jordan where, [redacted] [redacted] two battalions of troops were required to put down a riot on 21 November.

A broadcast from Cairo featured a petition by Nablus town notables requesting that the Jordanian Government cooperate with the Egyptian-oriented Palestine Liberation Organization in fortifying border villages and in arming the inhabitants. The broadcast demanded that the government cease interfering with terrorist operations against Israel. The radio claimed that Jordanian sentiment foreshadows "a popular revolution."

The Cairo and Damascus press is also focusing on the "revolt" in Jordan. Cairo is attacking Husayn as a "reactionary ally of Israel," and claims that a group of Jordanian officers is planning to establish a republic in Jordan, which would be named Palestine. [redacted]

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