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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Prague is again the battle ground ideologists order for Europe. As men and women singe with apprehension the likeness to the days of Munich when the iron hand cast a black shadow of a police state across Czechoslovakia. The pact of achievement forged its chains of slavery. Today in the capital Communist Premier Gottwald carries an ultimatum to President Benes who but a short time ago congratulated him on his election as Prime Minister by a government of all parties. Now he presents the ultimatum, single party government or single chaos. The Czechs like ourselves are a democratic people bred in the free atmosphere of democratic party government. This in itself provokes the communists into extreme action. For the peoples choice in the elections would not have swung to the extreme left. Gottwald therefore obtained a close contact with Moscow. Norsek the central figure used ministerial power to build up a communist manned police force. Only the usual plot remained to be unearthed and the pattern of intrigue as familiar as the hammer and sickle is impressed on yet another country. The Socialist party is now led by Zan Fierlinger a fellow traveller who has spent the years of war in Moscow. Mass intimidation by resident minority once more wins the day. Present throughout this crisis is Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Zorin his words have ominous significance as press radio and opposition are gagged. Who is to be the Petrov of Czechoslovakia only two outstanding democrates remain in freedom, Benes and Masaryk. History repeats itself. Where will the stand for freedom be made.