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Czechoslovakia: National Front

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Summary:

An analysis of Czechoslovakia's National Front organization which is composed of four, legal non-Communist political parties.

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Czechoslovakia's National Front

Czechoslovakia's four legal non-Communist parties operate within the National Front, an umbrella organization that also includes the ruling Communists and such mass organizations as trade unions and women's groups. The regime has maintained the Front organizations in large part to pass on and promote Communist Party directives, and they have been careful to adhere to the party line. The Socialist Party has 16,000 members, mostly urban professionals, and the rural-based People's Party claims approximately 50,000 adherents. Both have their own newspapers and publishing houses. There are also two Slovak parties with estimated memberships of less than 1,000 each. Communist Party leader Jakes recently pledged to reactivate the National Front and to upgrade the satellite parties' role in policymaking as the cornerstone of his limited political reforms.

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