

Soviet silence on east European unrest

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Moscow, March 10.—Soviet leaders maintained a discreet silence today on events in east European countries that have underlined the changes in the communist world since the death of Stalin 15 years ago.

Not a word has appeared in the Soviet newspapers about the violent demonstrations of the past two days in Warsaw or about the moves towards greater liberalization in Czechoslovakia.

Although these events—as well as Rumania's recent demonstrative reassertions of independence—must be causing them acute concern, the Russian leaders have apparently decided that their best policy is silence.

They appear to have two main concerns: not to exacerbate the situation in a way which would lead to even greater strains in the east European alliance and further loss of Soviet prestige; and, probably more important, not to give the Soviet public ideas which would be considered harmful.

Tear gas in Warsaw

WARSAW, March 10.—Steel helmeted policemen yesterday used tear gas and truncheons to disperse students in the most serious street violence seen in Warsaw for two years.

The police clashed with groups of students who had met at the Warsaw Polytechnic and demanded the release of other students, said to have been arrested after a demonstration at Warsaw University on Friday.

About 50 of the police later forced their way into the Polytechnic electronics faculty, where another student meeting was taking place. About 200 students, some brandishing chairs, counter-charged and drove the police out of the building. Outside there were shouts of "Long live Czechoslovakia".

The police also used batons to disperse student demonstrators at Warsaw University, on the other side of the city.

Student sources said that about 50 students had been arrested on Friday, some at their homes and in hostels. Other sources said that two Warsaw University research graduates, Mr. Jacek Kuron and Mr. Karol

Modzelewski, who were gaoled in 1965 for distributing pamphlets criticising Communist Party policies, had been detained by police.

The clash at the Polytechnic occurred after a meeting of hundreds of students who shouted "Gestapo", "Gestapo" as the militia charged. There were reports that during the meeting the students shouted: "We do not want secret police." The meeting dispersed after hearing speeches by representatives of the Polish Student Union.

Police in wait

When the students emerged from the meeting they shouted "freedom", "Democracy," and "Warsawians, support us" and sang the "Internationale". As they rounded a street corner a squad of policemen waiting for them.

Scuffles broke out between bystanders and the auxiliary police when the police chased men and women students fleeing up the stairs of the Holy Cross church.

Later the uniformed police made a baton charge up the church steps against about 50 men and women students.—*Reuter*.