

Czechs Hit Dubcek, Hint at CIA Links

By Dusko Doder

Washington Post Foreign Service
PRAGUE, March 10 —

Czechoslovakia's government launched a major attack on former Communist Party elder Alexander Dubcek and his supporters tonight, strongly hinting that they have maintained links with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

The charges were made during a 45-minute television interview with Capt. Pavel Minarik, a Czech intelligence agent who infiltrated the U.S.-operated Radio Free Europe. The interview, broadcast live here, was also carried over Inter- vision, the network linking all Soviet-bloc countries.

Woodcock Rips Ford Health Plan

United Auto Workers

President Leonard Woodcock yesterday blasted the Ford administration's national health insurance proposal as the "first step toward a national catastrophe."

In an address to the Women's Rally for Health Security, Woodcock said there is "blatant discrimination" in the coverage provided for women in existing health insurance programs. He said the best way to eliminate such discrimination is through a comprehensive national health insurance program for all Americans that would provide the same coverage to all persons.

The program included the ominous-sounding statement that all "con- ceptions of the opposition people will be judged in forums other than this" interview.

Political observers here interpreted the public attack on the leaders of the "Prague Spring"—the brief period of liberalizing reforms that Dubcek introduced in 1968 before it was crushed by the Soviet-led invasion—as a clear warning against dissident activities between now and next month's Communist Party congress.

These observers said that there are no indications that the government of President Gustav Husak would stage any show-trials at this time. Minarik, who returned here in January after having worked for RFE for more than seven years, said he has evidence for his allegations. The program, then showed a series of RFE memoranda and papers mentioning the names of Czechoslovak dissidents.

In addition to Dubcek, the names included those of Zdenek Mlynar, who was secretary of the Central Committee during the Dubcek regime; philosopher Karel Kosic; a Central Committee member during the same period; and prominent intellectuals of the "Prague Spring" such as writers Pavel Kohout and Ludvic Vacilik.

The material seemed to have been RFE program

schedule advisories or guidance papers.

The radio, which was once financed by the CIA, broadcast daily to Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Poland and Bulgaria. It often uses material smuggled out of Communist countries to the West.

The only clear reference to Dubcek in the papers shown on the screen was a letter he wrote after the death of Josef Smrkovsky, a prominent leader of the "Prague Spring."

The thrust of Minarik's remarks was that RFE is still a branch of the CIA and that Czechoslovak dissidents were knowingly working for the Americans. At one point he suggested that the process of liberalization in Czechoslovakia that brought Dubcek to power had been organized by the CIA.

The dissidents, he said, "knew very well with whom they had the honor of dealing, what Radio Free Europe represents and with whom they had allied themselves."

Tonight's broadcast seems to be a part of a deliberate government effort to intimidate the opposition, about 20 prominent dissidents were called in by security agents two weeks ago and asked to sign a statement warning them that their activities were edging closer to those punishable under the Czech penal code.

The journalist who interviewed Minarik tonight made a brief reference to a letter



Alexander Dubcek chatting with a worker in 1968, before his fall from power.

Associated Press

that Dubcek and his colleagues had written to protest earlier allegations by Minarik that they have been receiving money from Radio Free Europe.

The text of their letter was not read, but both men suggested that Dubcek and others had never written a similar letter to RFE protesting the radio's use of their written material.

Minarik had said that funds for Dubcek were be-

ing deposited in the name of G. M. Williams at the Bank for Gemeinwirtschaft in Cologne, West Germany. Minarik gave the account number as 10243113. The program implied that Dubcek associates had similar bank accounts in the West, and were receiving CIA money through RFE.

Although Minarik's specific charges against the dissidents and their links with CIA money were not read, he said that "The CIA had not given up its positions at the RFE and Radio Liberty" in Munich. Tonight Minarik supplied a number of names he alleged were those of CIA men linked with the station and using journalistic cover to gather information and establish clandestine contacts with opposition groups in various East European countries.

already proved that "The CIA had not given up its positions at the RFE and Radio Liberty" in Munich. Tonight Minarik supplied a number of names he alleged were those of CIA men linked with the station and using journalistic cover to gather information and establish clandestine contacts with opposition groups in various East European countries.