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Husák-Rusák in the New York Times



Fifty years ago yesterday, the New York Times was still holding out some hope that the Soviet Union would end its occupation of Czechoslovakia. "[Husak-Rusak](#)" [slogans are chalked on house walls](#), the paper reported, but "a dwindling number of Czechoslovaks still hope that the party chief, a flinty and astute Slovak who spent nine years in prison in the fifties on charges of 'bourgeois diversionism, nationalism and chauvinism,' may in reality be playing out a machiavellian scheme to get the Russians out." Two days later, the [confrontation with soldiers](#) was on the front page, and the NYT quoted demonstrators as chanting, "Long live Dubcek!" and "Traitor Husak!" By Aug. 24, the Times was reporting that the "Dubcek! Dubcek!" cries could [hasten Dubček's downfall](#) and strengthen Husák. On Sept. 3, the NYT wrote of "[Capitulation in Prague](#)" and said that the "nub of the Husak 'realist' position is that a weak small state has no right to stand up to a powerful state."

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