

TIMES

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Students detained on Palach anniversary

Prague, Jan. 16 —Police have arrested 10 student members of an extreme left-wing group, reliable sources said today—the first anniversary of the suicide by burning of Jan Palach.

The sources said the students—nine Czechoslovaks and one west Berlin girl—were members of the Revolutionary Socialist Party which has been branded by the authorities as "Trotskyite". The Interior Ministry has promised to publish details of the group's "anti-state" plans.

Their arrests were reported as scores of people made pilgrimages to the grave of Jan Palach, the 21-year-old philosophy student whose self-immolation in protest at the restrictions imposed after the Soviet-led invasion of August, 1968, stunned the nation.

A recently obtained copy of the radical group's policies called for active resistance "against those who at home and behind the borders prepared the debasing occupation."

A Prague Radio commentator last night said the group were befuddled with the ideas of Leon Trotsky, Mao Tse-tung, and

Rudi Dutschke, the west German student leader, who visited Prague during the 1968 liberalization period.

Their poorly mimeographed policy statement advocated "creeping revolution", and said "It is necessary to create a popular resistance front".

Today extra police and security men patrolled the upper half of Wenceslas Square near the fountain where Palach had set fire to himself. His name has been chalked hastily on a billboard near where he fell to the ground in flames.

Beside Jan Palach's grave in Olsany cemetery a small box of Czechoslovak flags was placed on a bench. Several youngsters pinned the flags on their lapels and wore them when leaving.

A huge mound of flowers covers the grave and a glittering mass of about 300 candles was placed in front.

A police car stood outside the cemetery during the afternoon but there were seldom more than 10 to 15 people there at one time.—Reuter.

Londoners remember Palach, page 8. leading article, page 9.