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Miguel Delibes. *La primavera de Praga*.¹
Madrid. Alianza. 1968. 168 pages.

Miguel Delibes went to Czechoslovakia in the spring of 1968 to give lectures at the universities of Brno and Prague on the contemporary Spanish novel. In "Prague's springtime" the Czechs had overthrown the twenty-year dictatorship imposed on them by Russia, and were evolving a new society of freedom, nonviolence, and justice. They were evolving

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a formula of coexistence for the future world,² based on agrarian reforms, equitable distribution of income, the right and obligation to work, equality in education, and political participation by the people. Intellectual groups, including writers, professors, and students, were joined by the peasants in opposition to the party. "Cool heads" in the Progressive party had triumphed to break the monolithic structure in which the president of the republic was the secretary of the party. Mr. Dubček was elected secretary of the party; later, Mr. Svoboda was elected president. The press was uncensored for the first time in twenty years, and a heady spirit of optimism was evident everywhere. The Czechs had evolved a humanistic and democratic socialism from which Miguel Delibes drew two conclusions: (1) that a country which is evolving economically and culturally cannot live in a dictatorship; and (2) it is still possible to find on earth a formula of justice in liberty.

"Prague's Springtime" is filled with the author's fascinating philosophical insights, and with comparisons of aspects of Czech life with those of Western countries. His humor is revealed in the detailed episode of having an infected tooth pulled in Prague.

What saddens the reader is to recall that Russian tanks reentered Prague in August 1968, only a few weeks after Delibes' visit.

J. Wesley Childers
Southern State College

