

[USSR-Czechoslovakia: (Information as of 2330 EDT)

At about 2300 hours, local time Prague, (1800 hours EDT) yesterday Soviet, Polish, East German, Hungarian and Bulgarian troops began moving into Czechoslovakia, according to a Prague radiobroadcast.

Prague radio stated that the troops were moving into Czechoslovakia without the sanction of Czechoslovak party and government leaders. It appealed to all citizens to maintain calm and to offer no resistance to the troops moving into the country. According to the broadcast no commands had been issued to Czechoslovak military forces to defend the country. In Prague, the National Assembly (parliament) and the party central committee immediately assembled. They apparently are still in session.

There is as yet no indication of the size of the ground forces moving into Czechoslovakia. It is likely that deployment occurred from assembly positions on Czechoslovakia's borders in East Germany, Poland, the USSR, and Hungary.

A member of the Soviet delegation to the UN has stated that the Soviet Government and its Warsaw Pact allies were intervening militarily in Czechoslovakia at the request of the Czechoslovak Government. Otherwise, there has been no official Soviet statement, either on the intervention or on the pretext on which the action is based.

According to a press report from London, telephone contact between Britain and the Soviet Union was cut soon after Prague radio's announcement of the intervention.

The Soviet intervention came hard on the report of the convening of an extraordinary session of the Soviet Central Committee. Soviet leaders]

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suggests that the Soviet leadership was seeking the last-minute approval of the Central Committee for a decision which had already been made. The circumstances raise the possibility that the decision resulted from a rebellion within the politburo against policies which, in recent weeks, have appeared to put the USSR on the short end in the Soviet-Czechoslovak conflict. [REDACTED]

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