

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

36

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

21 Thursday, August 22, 1968
8:35 p. m.

Mr. President:

This is another obscure suggestion
that the Czech military forces may
take some kind of action.

W. Rostow Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ/RAC 99-214
By ctm, NARA, Date 3-17-03

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

COPY 1 B1 LIBRARY

JURSTYRGN
SSO ALCOM
SSO ARLINGTON HALL STATION (FOR DIAAP-1)
SSO BERLIN
SSO BRUSSELS
SSO CARLISLE BKS/DACE
SSO CINCPAC
SSO CONAD
SSO FRANKFURT
SSO FT RICHIE/AFOC/ANMCC
SSO ISMIR
SSO LONDON
SSO MOEHRINGEN
SSO NAPLES
SSO NECPA
SSO PANAMA
SSO VICENZA (FOR G-2 SETAF)

[REDACTED]
3.3(6)(3)

[REDACTED]
FOR ARLO
FOR JRRU
SUSLO LONDON
CAS, FRANKFURT
SSO BONN
ZEM

~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~ VHN 2616 Bv. SUPPLEMENT NR ONE
TO EUCOM SITREP NR FIVE.
SECTION ONE OF TWO

1. GENERAL

IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, REPORTS HAVE INDICATED THAT SVOBODA, DUBCEK, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE PRISONERS OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES, AND THAT MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH MOSCOW ARE MEETING AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN PRAGUE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. NO MENTION HAS BEEN MADE OF FORMER CZECH LEADER NOVOTNY AND HIS POSSIBLE RETURN TO POWER SINCE YESTERDAY.

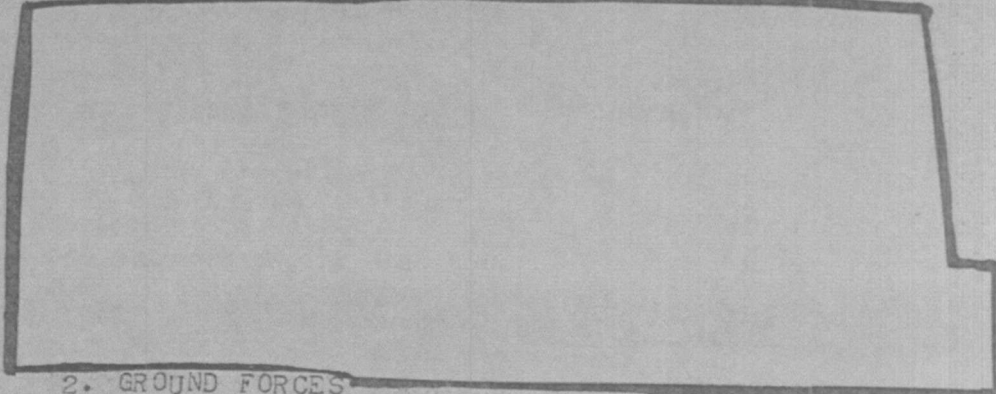
FOUR LEADING MEMBERS OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING VICE PREMIER OTA SIK AND FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK, WERE VACATIONING IN YUGOSLAVIA AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION AND HAVE REMAINED THERE. THE FOUR OFFICIALS HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE AGRESSION AND DEMANDING AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES. PRESS REPORTS ESTIMATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 50,000 CZECH TOURISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA ARE AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR HOMELAND.

MEANWHILE, APPROXIMATELY 30-40 PERSONNEL OF THE SOVIET TRADE MISSION IN WEST GERMANY HAVE REPORTEDLY LEFT THE COUNTRY.

IN A SPEECH DURING A MASS RALLY IN BUCHAREST, AS REPORTED BY THE AUSTRIAN RADIO, RUMANIAN PRESIDENT AND PARTY CHIEF CEAUSESCU STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE ARMED INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ANNOUNCED THAT RUMANIA IS "NOW IN A STATE OF FULL MOBILIZATION."

COPY FBI LIBRARY

EARLIER, CEAUSESCU HAD ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF SEPCIAL "WORKERS BRIGADES" AND HAD STATED THAT RUMANIA WOULD NOT PERMIT THE "VIOLATION OF THE FATHERLAND BY ANYONE."



3.3
(6)(1)(3)

2. GROUND FORCES

PACT FORCES ARE WELL-EMPLACED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, REPORTEDLY OCCUPYING SOME CZECH CASERNES AND SETTING UP BIVOUACS. ESTIMATED OCCUPATION TROOP STRENGTH IN PRAGUE IS AT LEAST 30,000, INCLUDING MAJOR ELEMENTS OF AT LEAST ONE SOVIET ABN DIVISION, ONE SOVIET MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION AND ONE TANK DIVISION. EAST GERMAN, POLISH AND BULGARIAN TROOP UNITS, AT LEAST IN TOKEN STRENGTH, ARE ALSO IN PRAGUE.

ALL VEHICLE TRAFFIC OVER THE VLTAVA RIVER HAS BEEN HALTED AND EXITS FROM THE CITY APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SEALED. PRAGUE RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT LT GENERAL VELICKA, "COMMANDER OF OCCUPYING FORCES FOR PRAGUE AND THE MIDDLE CZECH AREA" HAD IMPOSED A CURFEW,

BE IN EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT UNTIL 0500 HOURS.

CZECHOSLOVAK ARMED FORCES APPARENTLY HAVE OFFERED NO ORGANIZED RESISTANCE TO THE OCCUPIERS, IN LINE WITH THE DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE OCCUPATION. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE A DEGREE OF CZECH PASSIVITY WITH SOLDIERS REMAINING AT THEIR POSTS OR FOLLOWING THE DIRECTION OF THE SOVIETS. RESISTANCE OFFERED HAS COME FROM STUDENTS AND IRREGULARS.

THE PRESENT DISPOSITION OF SOVIET FORCES IN WESTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

TWENTIETH GUARDS ARMY ELEMENTS ARE LOCATED WEST OF PRAGUE UP TO THE CZECH-FRG BORDER. IN PRAGUE AND IMMEDIATELY TO THE EAST, ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST GUARDS TANK ARMY ARE DEPLOYED. REPORTS INDICATE THAT FURTHER TO THE EAST POLISH TROOPS ARE IN PARDUBICE, AN UNIDENTIFIED BULGARIAN REGIMENT IS MOVING NORTHEAST OF KOSICE AND ELEMENTS FROM THE SOVIET CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT ARE IN EASTERN SLOVAKIA.

3.3
(6)(1)(3)

NNNN

~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

SSO GINCPAC
SSO CONAD
SSO FRANKFURT
SSO FT RICHIE/AFOC/ANMCC
SSO ISMIR
SSO LONDON
SSO MOEHRINGEN
SSO NAPLES
SSO NECPA
SSO PANAMA
SSO VICENZA (FOR G-2 SETAF)
USA-751
USM-82
USM-89
USM-701 (FOR CPC)
USM-40

[REDACTED]

3.3(6)(3)

FOR ARLO
FOR JRRU
SUSLO LONDON

CAS FRANKFURT
SSO BONN
ZEM

~~TOP SECRET TRINE~~ VHN 2616 BW.
FINAL SECTION OF TWO

[REDACTED]

3.3(6)(1)(3)

ONLY BATTALION AND REGIMENTAL SIZED UNITS OF THE OTHER SOVIET PACT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCUPATION.

A WESTERN PRESS PHOTO INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF SOME SOVIET SPECIAL FORCES IN PRAGUE. THE UNIFORM, BERET AND STRIPED T-SHIRT WORN BY ONE INDIVIDUAL IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE PHOTOGRAPH APPEAR TO BE IDENTICAL WITH THAT DISPLAYED BY SPECIAL FORCES UNITS IN MOSCOW PARADES.

3. BORDERS

CZECH BORDER CROSSING POINTS ARE OPEN TO SOME EXTENT. NO WESTERNERS ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER EXCEPT DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. CZECH PERSONNEL, PROPERLY AUTHORIZED ARE PERMITTED TO CROSS. NO SIZEABLE EXODUS OF REFUGEES HAS BEEN REPORTED AS YET.

4. AIR FORCES

THE AIR SCENARIO FOR THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS BEGINNING TO CLARIFY.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE INVASION CONSISTED OF OVER 200 TRANSPORT SORTIES SUPPORTED BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT CONDUCTING INTENSIVE ACTIVE JAMMING AND CHAFF DROPS.

IT APPEARS THE INITIAL OBJECTIVE OF THE EARLY WAVES OF TRANSPORTS WAS TO CONDUCT PARA DROPS AND/OR LANDINGS OF ABN TROOPS ON CZECH ACFIELDS. BEGINNING AROUND 20/

2400Z.

[REDACTED]

3.3(6)(1)(3)

3.3 (b) (1) (3)

[REDACTED]

A RELIABLE OBSERVER IN PRAGUE STATED THAT BY 21/0840Z 325 AN-12 SORTIES HAD ENTERED AIRPORTS AROUND THE CITY. AFTER 0800 ON THE 21ST, AN-12 FLIGHTS INTO PRAGUE EVIDENTLY TAPERED OFF.

3.3
(b) (1) (3)

[REDACTED]

THE SECOND PHASE OF AIR OPERATIONS BEGAN IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 21 AUGUST AND WAS CHARACTERIZED BY INTENSIVE AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SUCH AS TROOP SPOTTING, AIR DEFENSE COVER AND RECONNAISSANCE. THE TACTICAL AIRCRAFT PERFORMING THESE MISSIONS OPERATED FROM SOUTHERN BASES IN EAST GERMANY AND POLAND. WHILE NO ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL INVOLVED IN THIS PHASE IS POSSIBLE IT APPEARS THAT AT LEAST 165 SOVIET AIRCRAFT FROM EAST GERMANY ALONE WERE ENGAGED IN THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH CONTINUES.

THE THIRD PHASE OF AIR ACTIVITY APPEARS TO HAVE BEGUN AROUND 1100 HOURS ON THE 21ST AND INVOLVES THE DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET FIGHTERS AND FIGHTER BOMBERS FROM BASES IN EAST GERMANY AND POLAND INTO THE CAPTURED CZECH AIRFIELDS. THE FIRM NUMBERS OF SOVIET TACTICAL AIRCRAFT THAT HAVE ARRIVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOT KNOWN. WE ESTIMATE THAT A FULL REGIMENT HAS OCCUPIED ZATEC AND ESTIMATED SOVIET AIRCRAFT AT MILOVICE AND CASLAV AIRFIELDS ROSE TO 80 BY 1900 HOURS ON THE 21ST OF AUGUST.

DESPITE THE RELATIVE LACK OF INFORMATION CONCERNING SOVIET FIGHTER AND FIGHTER BOMBER DEPLOYMENTS TO CZECHOSLOVAK AIRFIELDS IT IS LIKELY THAT, AT LEAST, THE ESTIMATED 450 SOVIET COMBAT TACTICAL AIRCRAFT WHICH DEPLOYED TO SOUTHERN GERMANY AND POLAND IN JULY EITHER HAVE OR WILL MOVE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE APPEARS TO BE A RELATIVE LULL IN AIR ACTIVITY OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA; HOWEVER, RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSPORT RESUPPLY FLIGHTS CONTINUE.

WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF BRNO AIRFIELD, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AIR FORCE ARMED RESISTANCE TO THE OCCUPATION OF THEIR AIR BASES; HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT THAT PASSIVE RESISTANCE IS BEING EMPLOYED.

[REDACTED]

3.3
(b)
(1, 3)

900

NNNN

OK FROM QUOTE COPY

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

COPY LIBRARY