

*Reftext*

FBIS 71 (REOPENING 68) FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ONLY ADD 68 (CZECHOSLOVAK AGREEMENT)

XXX TONIGHT OR TOMORROW.

(EXCERPT) ALL MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERSHIP, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AS TRAITORS, REVISIONISTS, AND AIDERS OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES HERE IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN THEIR POSTS, THE SOURCES SAID.

NO OFFICIAL CORROBORATION OF THE REPORT WAS AVAILABLE FROM THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OR OTHER SOVIET SOURCES.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY PRESIDENT LUDVIG SVOBODA AND PRAGUE REFORMIST COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF ALEXANDER DUBCEK. THE CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID THE PRAGUE LEADERS AGREED TO INTRODUCE CONTROL OVER THE PRESS TO PREVENT THE APPPEARANCE OF ARTICLES CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

THE SOVIET TROOPS WHICH MARCHED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TOGETHER WITH UNITS FROM EAST GERMANY, POLAND, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA, WILL BE WITHDRAWN WHEN "CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT IS CONSOLIDATED," THE SOURCES ADDED. THIS COULD TAKE ANYTHING FROM 2 WEEKS TO 2 MONTHS, THEY ADDED.

THE SOURCES SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY'S REFORMIST "ACTION PROGRAM" WOULD BE ALLOWED TO SURVIVE, SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT TO THE MEASURES TO CONTROL THE PRESS.

26 AUG 1450Z BS/TRW

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