

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

• PRIORITY

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THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

DIST 22 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY: ITALY/CZECHOSLOVAKIA

DOI: 21 AUGUST 1968

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMUNIST LEADERS' REACTIONS TO INVASION OF
 CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAUGHT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE. DURING THE MORNING OF 21 AUGUST, A HASTILY CONVOKED MEETING OF THE DIREZIONE MET TO ISSUE A STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU. ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF THIS LATER BODY WERE PRESENT, PIETRO INGRAO AND GIORGIO NAPOLETANO; ONGO, AMENDOLA, BERLINGUER, PAJETTA AND MACALUSO WERE ON VACATION. THE MEETING

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Approved for Release by CIA
 Date August 2009

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(classification)

(dissem controls)

CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL TO ISSUE AN IMMEDIATE STATEMENT
DISAPPROVING THE SOVIET MARCH INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

[Redacted]

2. SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS CONDEMNED BY
ALL CURRENTS IN THE PCI, INCLUDING EVEN THE REMAINING OLD
STALINISTS. DEEP DEPRESSION AND WORRY REIGNED AT PCI
HEADQUARTERS OVER THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF CZECH EVENTS,
BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND IN ITALY. THE SOVIET ACTION CONDEMNS
THE DUBCEK COURSE WHICH THE PCI HAD SUPPORTED AND EXALTED
AS THE FORERUNNER OF AN "ITALIAN ROAD TO SOCIALISM," AND BY
IMPLICATION DAMNS PCI POLICIES OF THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

3. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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