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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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November 18, 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

The best figure for Soviet forces in Czechoslovakia currently is about 40,000. CIA/DIA jointly hold three Soviet divisions in-country, all formerly located in the Carpathian Military District. About 60 - 70 Soviet tactical aircraft are still in-country, but the Czech Air Force is performing the air defense mission as before the intervention.

The Soviet forces have been organized into the Central Group Forces (CGF) under the equivalent of a U. S. major general, apparently using the 38th Army Headquarters from the Carpathian Military District as the nucleus. The occupation force and organization have not yet stabilized, but DIA expects that a total force of 40-50,000 Soviet troops is the most likely of several possible alternatives at this point.

At least 10, and possibly as many as 13, Soviet Category II divisions in the western USSR were brought up to combat-ready status prior to the intervention, making a total of 19 to 22 Category I divisions in that area. There is no evidence that any substantial demobilization of these forces has yet occurred.

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WILLIAM L. LEMNITZER

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By *isl*, NARA, Date *7-3-06*

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