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August 20, 1968

The Government of the Soviet Union considers it necessary to inform personally President Johnson about the following.

In connection with the further aggravation of the situation which was created by conspiracy of the external and internal forces of aggression against the existing social order in Czechoslovakia and against the statehood established by the constitution of that country, the government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic approached the allied states, the Soviet Union among them, with request of rendering direct assistance including the assistance by military forces.

The Soviet Government repeatedly stated that the events in Czechoslovakia and around it involved vital interests of the Soviet Union and of this number of other states tied by appropriate treaty obligations and that the threat to the Socialist order in Czechoslovakia constituted at the same time a threat to the foundations of European peace and of security. In view of this, the Soviet Government and governments of the allied countries have taken joint decision to satisfy the request of Czechoslovakia about rendering necessary assistance to the Czechoslovak people. Accordingly, the Soviet military units received orders to enter the territory of Czechoslovakia. Of course they will be withdrawn without delay from the territory of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as soon as the present threat to the security is eliminated and the lawful authorities come to the conclusion that there is no need in further presence of the allied forces. We would like President Johnson to know that our steps which are being taken

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By            NARA Date 3-20-87

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