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By CG, NARA Date 9-23-97

Received: Washington ComGen  
10:58 PM EDT Friday 30 August 1968

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
CITE CAP82310

Received: LBJ Ranch ComGen  
10:46 PM CDST Friday 30 August 1968

~~TOP SECRET~~ LITERALLY EYES ONLY **EYES ONLY**

AUGUST 30, 1968

YOU WILL GET FULLER REPORTS LATER, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

1. SECRETARY RUSK HAD DOBRYNIN IN AT ABOUT 9:00 P.M. OUR TIME. HIS COMMUNICATION TURNED OUT TO BE A REBUTTLE OF OUR POSITION ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE RENEWED THE SOVIET JUSTIFICATION BUT WITH NO REFERENCE TO A CZECH GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION. HE USED THE PHRASE "REVANCHIST THREATS" TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE PROTESTED THE STRENGTH OF THE U.S. REACTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE UNDERLINED A CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS BUT NOTED THE HOSTILE US REACTIONS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE REPEATED THAT NO "STATE INTERESTS" OF THE U.S. WERE INVOLVED. SECRETARY RUSK REMINDED HIM THAT HE HAD RAISED WITH DOBRYNIN AT THEIR LAST MEETING THE QUESTION OF RUMANIA. HE SAID THAT WE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED A NUMBER OF REPORTS NOT FROM RUMANIA, THAT GAVE US CONSIDERABLE ANXIETY. HE ASKED DOBRYNIN IF HE COULD GIVE US ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO RUMANIA. DOBRYNIN SAID THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THAT POINT. HE SAID THAT IT WAS HIS "PERSONAL VIEW" THAT MOSCOW WOULD NOT MOVE AGAINST RUMANIA. SECRETARY RUSK THEN TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE WISHED DOBRYNIN TO CONVEY TO MOSCOW OUR VIEW THAT IF ANY SUCH MOVE WAS CONTEMPLATED " IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY THEY SHOULD NOT DO IT ". HE ADDED THAT "IT WOULD HAVE INCALCULABLE EFFECTS ON THE ENTIRE WORLD SITUATION". HE UNDERLINED THAT THE STATE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. INCLUDED BERLIN AND THAT WE DO NOT TRUST ULBRICHT. ANY MOVE AGAINST BERLIN WOULD BE OF "THE UTMOST GRAVITY".

2. RUFUS TAYLOR AT THE CIA HAS REVIEWED ALL OF THE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE. HIS JUDGMENT IS THAT THERE IS CAUSE FOR "UNEASINESS" ABOUT RUMANIA BUT NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE AN "IMMINENT SOVIET MOVEMENT AGAINST RUMANIA".

THE STATE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS CONCUR IN THIS CIA JUDGMENT.

3. SECRETARY RUSK THINKS THAT IT MAY BE SIGNIFICANT THAT DOBRYNIN DID NOT ASK TO SEE HIM AT 10:30 TOMORROW; THAT IS, HE BELIEVES THAT DOBRYNIN DELIVERED TONIGHT THE MESSAGE PLANNED FOR 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW.

CHIP BOHLEN AND TOMMY THOMPSON BELIEVE THAT THE ODDS ARE 70-30 AGAINST A SOVIET MOVE INTO RUMANIA.

4. NEW SUBJECT: YOU MAY WISH TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE SEVERAL INDICATIONS THIS EVENING THAT SEPTEMBER 2 MAY BE THE JUMP-OFF DATE FOR MAJOR ATTACKS IN VIETNAM. SEPTEMBER 2 IS A HANOI ANNIVERSARY.

DTG 310258Z AUG 68

~~TOP SECRET~~ **EYES ONLY**