

~~SECRET~~  
SENSITIVE

Received Washington CommCen  
9:50 A.M. DT Saturday 31 Aug 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommCen  
10:10 A.M. CDT Saturday 31 Aug 68

Relayed Austin CommCen  
10:13 A.M. CDT Saturday 31 Aug 68

OO WTE15  
DE WTE10 439AU  
EEA453  
OO WTE10  
DE WTE 3616

FROM WALT ROSTOW  
TO THE PRESIDENT  
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN  
CITE CAP82320

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HEREWITH  LATEST ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST EUROPEAN  
SITUATION (AS OF 8:30 AM EDT)

31 AUGUST 1968

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1. THE PRE-INVASION CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS ITS OWN COMPOSITION AND THE "PERSONNEL QUESTION" IN THE PARTY PRESIDUM AND SECRETARIAT. RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA INDICATED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO REVIEW PROBLEMS REGARDING SLOVAK REPRESENTATION ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE ARISEN AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT SLOVAK PARTY CONGRESS.
2. CZECHOSLOVAK INTERIOR MINISTER JOSEF PAVEL HAS RESIGNED, ACCORDING TO AN AUSTRIAN RADIO REPORT FROM "WELL INFORMED PRAGUE QUARTERS." THE BROADCAST SPECULATES THAT JAN PELNAR, SECRETARY OF THE WEST BOHEMIAN PARTY COMMITTEE, WILL REPLACE HIM. PELNAR, WHO HAD BEEN CONSIDERED A NOVOTNY MAN UNTIL THE LATTER'S FALL FROM POWER, ALLEGEDLY JOINED THE DUBCEK GROUP LAST APRIL. A RELIABLE EMBASSY PRAGUE SOURCE ATTRIBUTES PAVEL'S OUSTER TO HIS OPPOSITION TO ANY NEW WAVE OF ARRESTS.
3. FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK DEPARTED VIENNA FOR ZURICH EARLY TODAY, AND "INFORMED SOURCES" IN VIENNA DOUBTED IF HE WOULD RETURN TO PRAGUE SOON. HAJEK IS PRESUMABLY AMONG THOSE ON MOSCOW'S BLACKLIST.
4. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUSHED BACK THE BRNO INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR ONE WEEK, AND THE FAIR IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 14-24 SEPTEMBER. CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTLY TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO HOLD OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHICH WERE SCHEDULED PRIOR TO THE OCCUPATION.

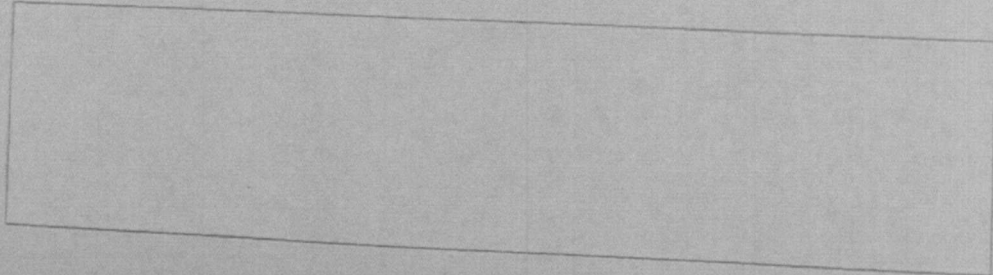
SANITIZED  
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5  
NLJ 06-84  
By iel, NARA, Date 7.31.06

5. THERE IS TENUOUS EVIDENCE THAT ELEMENTS OF THE SOVIET 11TH ARMY WHICH RECENTLY MOVED INTO CENTRAL EAST GERMANY AND NORTHWESTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM THE BALTIC AREA WILL REMAIN IN THE FORWARD AREA INDEFINITELY. ON 29 AUGUST A [REDACTED] AT A FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOVIET 1ST GUARDS TANK ARMY IN WESTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA REFERRED TO THE 11TH ARMY AS "REMAINING HERE OR ELSE IN EAST GERMANY."

6. THE SOVIETS ARE BRINGING AIR SURVEILLANCE RADAR AND REPORTING EQUIPMENT INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEY PROBABLY NEED THIS EQUIPMENT TO COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK AIR DEFENSE REPORTING NETWORK, WHICH HAS BEEN SILENT SINCE THE SOVIET INTERVENTION.

7. THERE IS LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE RUMANIAN SITUATION SUBSEQUENT TO THIS MORNING'S MEMORANDUM: POSSIBLE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT TO RUMANIA.

8. THE SOVIET AIR FORCE'S METEOROLOGICAL NETWORK HAS BEEN BROADCASTING WEATHER CONDITIONS IN RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 28 AUGUST, SUGGESTING THAT FLIGHTS INTO THE BALKANS ARE ANTICIPATED. THE SOVIETS COULD ALSO USE THIS INFORMATION FOR FORECASTING IN THE USSR, HOWEVER. WEATHER REPORTING FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY.



DTG 311350Z AUG 68

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