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EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(S)

SC 512362

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
1 September 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM:

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs The Situation in Czechoslovakia and Rumania
(As of 0700 EDT)

1. [redacted] does not reflect any conclusive evidence
of Soviet intentions to move militarily against Rumania.

[redacted]

3. The period of "watchful waiting" continues in Bucharest, where
the US Defense Attache characterized the atmosphere as calm early
on the morning of 1 September. [redacted]

Rumania intends to continue following its independent policy but
will give a "soft answer" to Moscow and its hard-core allies. Such
a tactic is consonant with the Rumanian way of handling delicate
situations of this type. This attitude was further reflected in

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[redacted] that Rumania will negotiate with each
of the Warsaw Five to show them that they have no reason to

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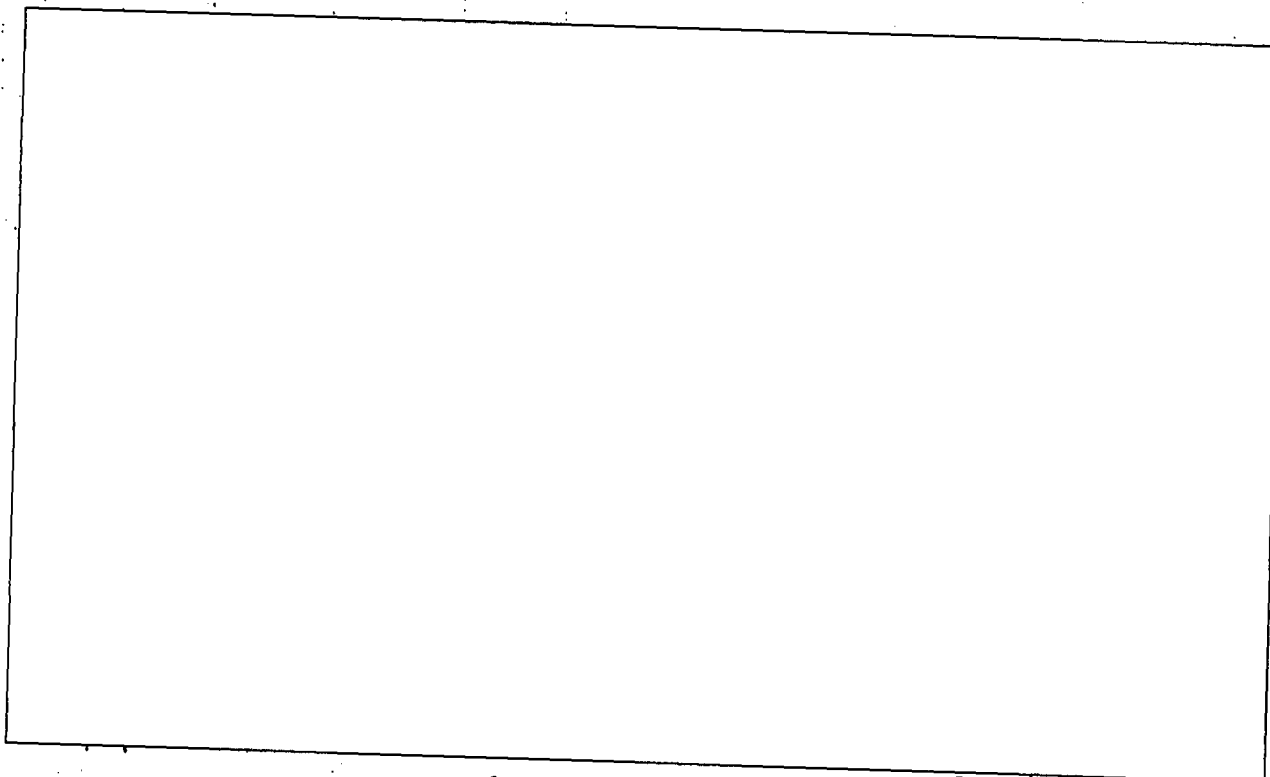
invade Rumania as they did Czechoslovakia.

4. There is still no further word on the "important Soviet political personage" whom the Rumanian Foreign Office told a French correspondent on 30 August would soon be coming to Bucharest.

6. Rumanian press and radio media still have not reported President Johnson's speech of 30 August. Czechoslovak and Yugoslav media thus far are the only Eastern European countries in which reaction to the speech has been noted. Radio Czechoslovakia omitted any reference to the Eastern European parts of the speech, while Belgrade radio said that "concern over the situation in Eastern Europe has been heightened" by the speech.

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11. The Dubcek leadership continues to struggle with the problem of carrying out Soviet directives without losing the public's confidence. The Central Committee met yesterday in closed session to make the personnel changes ordered by the Soviets. According to initial reports from Reuters, several party conservatives, including Dubcek's personal enemy Vasil Bilak, have been added to the 11-man presidium. A party congress reportedly has been scheduled to open on 9 September to ratify the changes in the presidium, elect a new central committee, and define the party's future course of action.

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12. The Embassy in Prague reports that an atmosphere of terror is beginning to take hold in the city but no mass arrests have yet been made. Rumors circulating about the rigid terms the Soviets demanded in Moscow -- deportation of large numbers of intellectuals to the USSR, occupation by Soviet troops for fifty years and complete abdication of the reformist leadership -- have seriously shaken the population's hopes. Intellectuals are starting to go underground, amid numerous rumors of roundups of revisionists. Contacts between Czechoslovaks and Westerners have become dangerous for the Czechs.

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