

INFORMATION

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Wednesday, September 4, 1968
4:30 p. m.

Mr. President:

Herewith the 3:00 p. m. Czech situation summary. You will note (paragraphs 5-6 and 8) that anxiety about Rumania is by no means at an end.

W. W. Rostow

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 99-278
By cb, NARA Date 1-31-01

WWRostow:rlh

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SC #11710/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
4 September 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia and Rumania
(As of 1500 EDT)

1. Pravda warned again today that Soviet troops had to remain in Czechoslovakia, citing unspecified "counterrevolutionary" activity as justification. The troops have left the national radio and news agency buildings, however, and are reportedly about to withdraw from the TV station as well. There are press reports that some of those services will resume tomorrow. The Soviets reportedly continue to occupy the offices and printing plants of most of the newspapers in Prague.

2. Rude Pravo, the party daily, reported today that the National Assembly will meet next week to pass legislation sanctioning press censorship and restricting the right of assembly. The paper also published an announcement by the Finance Ministry which warned that stringent economic measures may be necessary to compensate for the set-back suffered since the intervention. Premier Cornik reportedly

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convened another cabinet session today to discuss economic matters and may address the nation tonight.

3. The US Embassy in Prague reported today that Premier Cernik informed a group of intellectuals on 2 September that the over-all situation is still uncertain, and that it is unclear how much the Soviets will restrict the Czechoslovak government's freedom of action. Cernik stated further that the government knew of only five persons--high-ranking security officials--who have been arrested by the Soviets. Cernik apparently believes that there are close to 800 KGB personnel in Czechoslovakia. Minister of Culture Galuska reports that the Soviets are already attempting to introduce their "advisors" into "cultural areas."

4. Pravda today denied charges that Moscow forewarned the US of its actions in Czechoslovakia. Yuri Zhukov, a prominent Soviet commentator, especially cited Chinese efforts to create distrust between the USSR and North Vietnam with charges of US-USSR collusion. This denial may indicate the Soviets anticipate an adverse Chinese propaganda campaign relating to Ambassador Dobrynin's assurances to the US regarding Rumania.

5. The Rumanians have told the Yugoslav government that three Soviet divisions are in Bulgaria and six additional Soviet divisions have moved into Hungary from the

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There continues to be no evidence suggesting the presence of any Soviet troops in Bulgaria. The US Embassy in Budapest comments that continuous systematic coverage of Hungary by western attaches since the beginning of August has failed to confirm the presence of even one additional Soviet division in that country. Meanwhile, the Yugoslav armed forces continue on alert and have prepared ground force defensive positions facing Hungary and Bulgaria.

6. The Soviets have refused permission for a US attaché trip that was to be taken tomorrow to several locations in the southwestern USSR including Kishinev and Odessa. Both cities are in the military district bordering Rumania.

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exchange intelligence on Soviet troop deployments. This is a good indication of the extent of Yugoslav nervousness and distrust of Soviet intentions in regard to Rumania and Yugoslavia, but it is not without precedent. Following Yugoslavia's expulsion from the Cominform in 1948 a program for the exchange of military intelligence information was instituted between the US and the Yugoslav Defense Ministry. The agreement was cancelled in August 1955 when Belgrade normalized its relations with Moscow.

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