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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 0600 EDT)

1. Czechoslovak president Svoboda reportedly stated this morning that he will lead a delegation to Moscow today to negotiate with the highest Soviet authorities. According to a Radio Czechoslovakia broadcast of Svoboda's short speech, the delegation will be composed of several of the conservative members of the pre-invasion Dubcek regime--party secretary Indra and presidium members Bilak and Piller--and Justice Minister Kucera, Deputy Premier Husak and Defense Minister Dzur. Svoboda said that he hopes to return from Moscow this evening.

2. Dubcek and other Czechoslovak leaders who had been arrested earlier apparently are still being held incommunicado. A Prague newspaper reported last night that Dubcek, Smrkovsky, Kriegel, and Spacek had been flown to Moscow, but this remains unconfirmed.

3. The Soviet Union and Hungary vetoed today the UN Security Council resolution on Czechoslovakia. Foreign Minister Hajek is scheduled to arrive in New York today.

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delegates have discussed proposing to call the General Assembly into session. [REDACTED]

4. Communist China has publicly condemned the Soviet military intervention in Czechoslovakia as "naked aggression." The Chinese, who had previously avoided taking sides in what they had described as a struggle between rival "revisionist cliques," issued a statement which poured verbal abuse on the Soviet "imperialists" and played up world communist opposition to the intervention. The statement took an almost favorable--for the Chinese--view of the Dubcek regime, saying that their "crimes" were "far surpassed" by those of the Soviets

5. The whereabouts of the top Soviet leaders is still unknown, as is the identity of the Soviet officials who are reportedly negotiating with Czechoslovak leaders in Prague. The Soviet propaganda media are continuing to attempt to justify the occupation of Czechoslovakia, but are giving no hint of Soviet plans for the re-organization of the country's party and government leaderships. An editorial in this morning's Pravda asserted that "the truly patriotic forces" of Czechoslovakia were rising to crush the "counter-revolution" but gave no details on the leadership or activities of the alleged movement.

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