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(S)CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 0630 EDT)

1. The Slovak Communist Party Congress yesterday elected Gustav Husak as first secretary. Husak replaces Vasil Bilak, a conservative, pro-Soviet Ukrainian against whom charges of collaboration with the Soviet Union have been hurled. Husak, who attempted to defend Bilak at the congress, denied that the latter had cooperated with Moscow prior to the intervention. The congress also elected a new Presidium, in which 9 of 12 are newcomers. The three who were reelected, moreover, have only served four months. Although the Presidium's political complexion is not entirely certain, the indications are that the Slovak party now has a decisively reformist leadership.

2. Based on its latest reading, Embassy Prague characterizes the popular mood in the city as one of depression with little evidence of

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resistance. Very few people seen in Prague yesterday were wearing Dubcek buttons, and students were observed removing the ubiquitous signs pledging allegiance to national leaders. A handful of Soviet parachutists are still guarding the party Central Committee building. While almost all Czechoslovaks are ignoring the Soviets, the Embassy believes that the longer they remain in the city, the greater the possibility of hostile street encounters between them and Czechoslovak students.

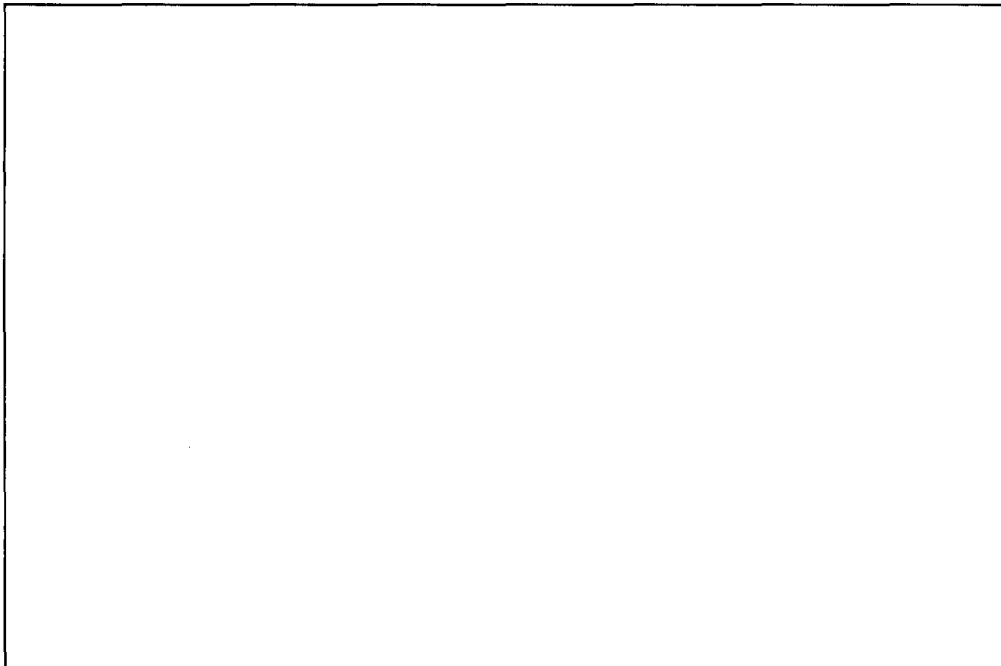
3. Since 21 August, 369 Czechoslovaks have applied for refugee status in Austria. Over forty percent of these applied for refugee status on 27 August, the day the Moscow "compromise" was announced. Most of the refugees were part of a larger group of 4000 legal travelers in Austria who are currently delaying their return home until the political situation stabilizes. The gradual takeover of border patrol duties by Soviet troops precludes, for the present, any other mass exodus of refugees.

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4. No significant change in the status of the forces occupying Czechoslovakia has been noted



5. Bulgarian troops occupying Prague airport have been told that a high Soviet officer and most of a company of troops were killed by "counter-revolutionaries" [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Regardless of the veracity of the report, the Bulgarians are prepared to shoot anyone entering their compound on sight. The

[REDACTED] the East Germans will replace the Bulgarians.

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