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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Directorate of Intelligence 3 September 1968



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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia

(As of 0630 EDT)

- 1. There is as yet no official confirmation of press reports of a Soviet central committee meeting which allegedly convened yesterday.
- 2. The clandestine pro-Soviet radio transmitter, Workers' Voice of the Republic, closed down early this morning after announcing that it had fulfilled its "patriotic and partisan" task toward the Czechs.
- 3. East European diplomats and journalists, as well as Czechoslovak sources, are interpreting the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia as the result of Russian global policy which is only indirectly related to internal Czechoslovak developments, according to the US Embassy in Prague. Ambassador Beam comments also that rather than letting the Czechoslovaks run their own internal affairs as they see fit, the Soviets are merely giving Prague leaders another chance to put their house in order according to Soviet dictates.

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4. The military situation in Czechoslovakia and along Rumania's borders remains substantially unchanged.

7. A Czech broadcast on 30 August reported a large convoy of Soviet military vehicles had crossed the Danube from Czechoslovakia into Hungary over a pontoon bridge, possibly the return of some Soviet units to their garrisons or the deployment of new Soviet units into Hungary.