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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
20 July 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 10:30 A.M. EDT)

1. There is no sign that either the Czechs or the Soviets are ready to give ground. Although there has been no official response by the Czechoslovak party Presidium to the Soviet Politburo's "invitation" to confer on Soviet territory, the Dubcek regime, strongly buttressed by the results of yesterday's Central Committee meeting in Prague, is undoubtedly pondering its reply. This may say that the Czechs are ready and eager to talk, but only on Czech soil. Unconfirmed western press reports from Prague assert that the Czechs will insist, in addition, that the Russians complete their military withdrawals before discussions begin. Whether the two sides will diverge from their collision courses would seem now to depend on whether such immediate issues as these can be compromised.

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2. It is probably still too early to expect to see a public Soviet reaction to the proceedings of the Czechoslovak party in Prague yesterday. These were a blow to any hopes Moscow may have had that conservative forces within the Czechoslovak party could be goaded into action against the reformist leadership.

3. The Soviet leaders are, meanwhile, using the party mechanism to bring home to the Soviet public the seriousness of their concern about Czechoslovakia. Party meetings which reaffirm the line put forth at the Soviet Central Committee meeting earlier this week are taking place in provincial centers. An expression of military support for the party position has also come from the military newspaper, Red Star, which says that "Soviet soldiers just as all Soviet people are deeply concerned over the intrigues of anti-socialist forces in Czechoslovakia."

4. The East German party has issued orders for a major propaganda campaign designed to inculcate its restive people with the need for a "resolute and bold counterattack on the revisionist and anti-

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socialist forces (in Czechoslovakia) without dangerous delay." The East German party central committee issued a formal statement on 19 July which appealed directly to orthodox Czechoslovak Communists to "immediately take firm measures" to protect the party's power. It assured such Czechoslovak elements that the East German party stood "firmly at their side in the necessary fight for checking counter-revolutionary forces." The Polish party's main daily paper also played on the same theme, according to western news sources. To date, these are the most naked invitations from neighboring Communist parties to a coup in Czechoslovakia.

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5. The Hungarian party's warnings to Prague are becoming more insistent in tone, and now note that danger to Communism in Czechoslovakia "directly threatens the security of Hungary as well." Rumania and Yugoslavia continue to give vocal support, but there is still no sign that Ceausescu or Tito are planning to come to Prague soon. Neither has there been any explanation of their failure to come so far.

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6. Waldeck-Rochet returned to Paris today, but there has been no information on his talks yesterday with Czechoslovak leaders.

7. Liberal elements in the Czechoslovak party and government are seeking public support, from leftist political parties in Europe, including the French Federation of the Left, according to

8. The Czechoslovak UN Mission members are edgy, and do not exclude the possibility of an appeal to the UN for moral support if circumstances should warrant it.

has been polling delegations to see if there were a chance of a UN initiative in favor of Czechoslovakia if the situation becomes critical.

9. Prague claims that the withdrawal of Soviet units is proceeding on schedule, and insists that all Soviet aircraft have gone,

A Soviet motorized rifle division has reportedly left Bohemia and is moving east toward the USSR border. Another motorized rifle unit and a "liaison equipment convoy"

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are said to have left the Libava training area
in Moravia and to be passing through Slovakia en
route to the USSR.

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