

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

93

(7)

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

*mid 12:50 P*

Wednesday, August 21, 1968  
12:45 p. m.

Mr. President:

Herewith CIA summary of  
Czech situation as of 11:00 a. m.

No surprises.

*(yes)*

W. W. Rostow

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6  
NLJ/RAC 99-209  
By *Sj* NARA, Date *2502*

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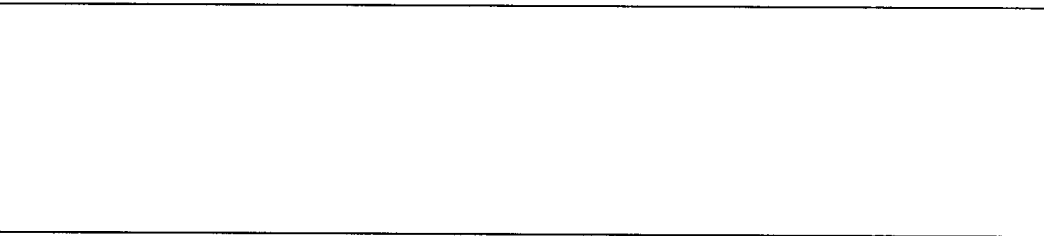
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
21 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia  
(As of 1100 EDT)

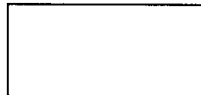
1. There have been no reports of Czechoslovak military resistance to the occupying forces. Some reports say, however, that civilians are attempting to block their movement. Casualties seem so far to have been few. Radio Prague has put the number at 25. At about the same time, the radio reported that a Soviet tank was on fire in the street outside the station.



The associated Press reports that troops from five Warsaw Pact countries are holding key positions in Bratislava, near the Czechoslovak-Hungarian border. 

3. As of 0800, some radio stations, including Radio Prague, were still in the hands of loyalist Czechoslovaks.

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

A broadcast from an unidentified Czechoslovak station, also at 0800 EDT, said, however, that the occupying forces had ordered all radio stations to stop transmitting or they would be forcibly silenced.

4. Other key party and government installations in major centers are evidently surrounded by occupying forces. Soviet forces may have taken over the Czechoslovak Defense Ministry in Prague early today. [REDACTED]

5. Dubcek and presidium member Kriegal and Spacek were, at Radio Prague's last report, confined to the Central Committee building in Prague. The Radio has reported that President Svoboda is also under detention.

6. The presidium of the Czechoslovak National Assembly, which met in extraordinary session this morning, sent a delegation to Soviet Ambassador Chervonenko at 0500 EDT with a request for permission to establish contacts with the President and other government leaders. [REDACTED]

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8. A report that Premier Kosygin and Minister of Defense Marshal Grechko had resigned, which was carried in a Czech broadcast from Prague in the early morning hours, has been emphatically denied by the Soviet Foreign Ministry. According to AP, one spokesman labeled it "a provocation," and another described it as "nonsense that should not be spread."

9. There has been no hard information on the whereabouts of any of the Soviet leaders since 16 August and there has been no further information on the Central Committee plenum reported by UPI and AFP on 20 August.

10. Along among Warsaw Pact states, Rumania convened a plenary session on 21 August of party, government, and mass organizations and unanimously supported in extremely strong language the Czechoslovak party, government, and people. Rumanian party and state chief Ceausescu even declared in a speech that "there is no justification whatsoever" for the military intervention.

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