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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
22 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1100 EDT)

1. Czechoslovak passive resistance to the Soviets continues and Moscow has not yet been able to assemble any sort of puppet government.

2. Martial law was proclaimed in Prague at 1200 Prague time (0700 EDT), according to a West German news agency report of a broadcast by Radio Prague. The broadcast added that the commander of the occupation forces has forbidden meetings and the dissemination of leaflets. The same report indicated that members of the secret police who are cooperating with the Soviets have begun large-scale arrests of "cultural workers and intellectuals." According to another radio report, Kosice was also placed under martial law.

3. The commander of the East Bohemian State Security has denied, however, that the Czechoslovak secret police are cooperating in making arrests, and stated that all of the security units with which he has been in touch have

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affirmed their support for the Dubcek leadership.

4. A token one-hour general strike began at 1200 Prague time (0800 EDT) with the sounding of factory sirens and blowing of car horns. First reports suggest widespread compliance with the strike call and a longer nationwide general strike remains a distinct possibility. Thus far there is no confirmation of reports from Radio Prague that "heavy fighting" has broken out in the Czechoslovak capital, although Western press reporters say there was a crowd of 20,000 in Prague's main square this morning shaking their fists at Soviet soldiers and shouting "Russians go home."

5. There are still no indications of any military resistance to the occupying forces. The General Staff of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces has, however, demanded the withdrawal of these forces and reaffirmed its loyalty to the legal government.

6. In a resolution broadcast by Radio Czechoslovakia this morning, an unidentified Czechoslovak military unit voiced its support for President Svoboda and categorically refused to comply with any orders of the Warsaw Pact Command. The resolution demanded the immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces and called on the legal government to terminate Czechoslovakia's membership in the Warsaw Pact if this demand were not met within twenty-four hours.

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7. A Czechoslovak radio station has announced--in what it describes as "a not fully authenticated" report--that the Soviets have issued an ultimatum to the members of the Czechoslovak party hierarchy who are not under detention to form a new party leadership and government by tonight. The Soviets allegedly recommended several conservative party leaders and specifically excluded Dubcek, Smrkovsky, Cernik, Spacok, Kriegel, and Cisar from consideration. The ultimatum purportedly threatened to impose an "occupation government" if this were not done.

8. The Czechoslovak government met in an extraordinary session this morning and passed a resolution supporting the Dubcek leadership and again demanding the "immediate departure of the occupation armies." The cabinet also demanded the release of Premier Cernik and Minister of National Defense Martin Dzur. The National Assembly also met this morning and issued a similar demand.

9. According to Radio Prague, the 14th party congress opened at 1120 Prague time (0620 EDT) at an undisclosed place on the outskirts of Prague. Over 950 of the 1560 delegates attended, but only a few were able to get to Prague from Slovakia. One group from Bratislava was apparently detained by the occupation forces at Breclav. The convening of the party congress probably represents an

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attempt by liberal party leaders to reaffirm the support
of the Communist party for the Dubcek regime.

