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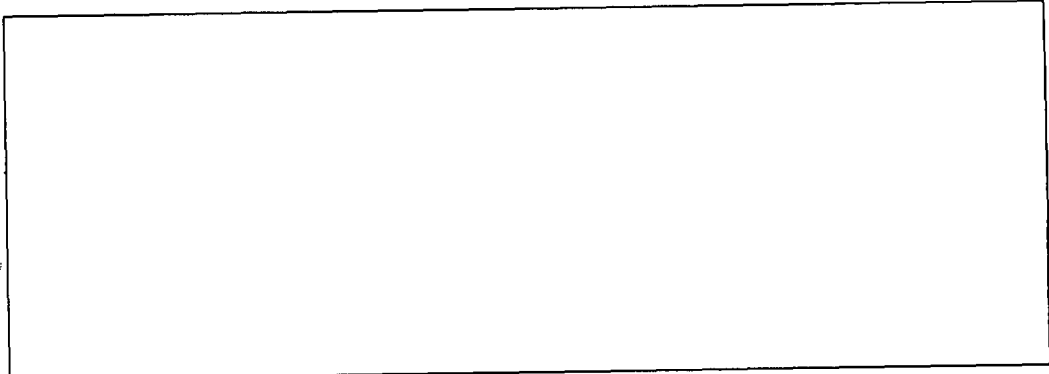
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1100 EDT)

1. There still is no evidence of fighting between Czechoslovak military units and the occupying forces. Fire



2. The Czechoslovak delegation led by Svoboda has arrived in Moscow and has been received by Soviet leaders including Brezhnev, Kosygin and Podgorny. According to the TASS announcement, the guests got full red carpet treatment at the airport, with a guard of honor, an artillery salute and cheering crowds brought out for the occasion. This was the first appearance in public of the top Soviet leaders since

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the invasion of Czechoslovakia and, in fact, the first time Soviet media have noted their activities since 6 August when they reportedly began vacations. In a statement attributed to Svoboda and broadcast prior to his departure, the Czechoslovak President said he had resisted pressure to collaborate with the Soviets. He said he was flying to Moscow at his own request to negotiate with the top echelon of the Soviet government. Radio Czechoslovakia has announced that it has full confidence in Svoboda and two other members of his delegation. The broadcast said that its judgement on the other four members of the group--who have conservative records--would depend on their performance in Moscow.

3. The situation in Prague was relatively calm this morning. No shooting was heard during the early morning hours. Soviet tanks continue to occupy all bridges, but automobiles were permitted to pass. Another one-hour protest strike began at 1200 Prague time (0700 EDT). One press report states that Soviet tanks rumbled down the deserted streets firing "warning shots" into the air.

4. The U. S. Attache in Prague, after a trip through the city on 22 August, reported that there are 30,000 occupation troops and 600 tanks in Prague. These troops may have been reinforced since the report. He reported that Prague is occupied by one Soviet tank division, one Soviet motorized rifle division and one Soviet airborne division (slightly

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understrength). Several Polish units--including some air-borne troops--and Bulgarian units of battalion size are also in the city. The attache has received reports from [redacted] that Hradec Karlove, 60 miles east of Prague, is occupied by elements of a Polish tank division and a Polish mechanized division.

[redacted]

6. According to Radio Czechoslovakia, Party Secretary Cestmir Cisar, who was reportedly arrested on 21 August is "not interned" and is "with good people."

7. Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Hajek is now scheduled to arrive in New York at 1715 EDT today.

8. Loyalists have named Zdenek Silhan Acting First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party in Dubcek's

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absence. An economist and a leading exponent of economic reform Silhan held no major post in the party prior to his election at the party congress yesterday.

9. Radio Czechoslovakia has announced that Soviet freight trains loaded with communications equipment and jamming devices were entering Czechoslovakia. After further identifying the trains, the radio stated that it would be "glad if these trains were stopped somewhere." In one instance, the announcer said it was necessary "to stop that train at all cost."

10. There have been further reports of an impending Soviet move against Rumania. [redacted]

reported that Soviet artillery was moving through southern Hungary toward the Rumanian border. [redacted]

[redacted] a Soviet military operation against Rumania was imminent. There have been no indications [redacted] of any unusual Soviet moves in areas bordering Rumania.

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