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~~SC #11708/68~~

~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
3 September 1968~~

*sent back via wire
CAP 2366*

SUBJECT: CIA'S

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM ON

The Situation in Czechoslovakia FOR 4:00 P.M. EST
~~(As of 12:00 PM)~~

SEPT. 3, 1968

1. Moscow TASS today reported on the activity of Brezhnev for the first time since the Czechoslovak negotiations a week ago. The Soviet party leader was said to have received Mongolian party secretary Tsedenbal, now on a visit to Moscow, for talks which revealed a "complete identity of views."
2. There still is no confirmation of rumors that a meeting of the Soviet party central committee was held 2 September. Although Communist newsmen are reporting the presence in the Soviet capitol of central committee members from the provinces, the US Embassy in Moscow reported that activity in the central committee headquarters appeared normal today.
3. The tone and content of Soviet press treatment of the Czechoslovak situation is less vicious than in the past few days. The Soviet party newspaper Pravda has reported without comment the composition of the new Czechoslovak presidium.

(Handwritten marks and scribbles)

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via wire
CAP 82366*

Moscow evidently wishes to ease tensions while allowing Dubcek time to move on Soviet-recommended "reforms."

The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia, however, implicitly urged the dismissal of two leading Czechoslovak officials --both are abroad--by castigating them in an article published today. Soviet Russia, a newspaper of the Soviet party central committee, called today for vigilance in Czechoslovakia because of the continued activity of "counter-revolutionary scum" there.

4. Western press services report that the situation in Prague and throughout the country is beginning to return to normal. Soviet forces reportedly have withdrawn from the Prague headquarters of the news agency CTK, the radio station in Bratislava, the presidential residence in Hradcany Castle, and most ministries. Troops remained, however, at the ministries of defense and interior and in Wenceslas Square. They also occupy 10 of the 14 Czechoslovak civil airports, but Radio Bratislava reported this afternoon that civil flights between the Slovak capital and Prague may resume soon. AP cited Czechoslovak sources as stating that international flights will probably resume before the Brno trade fair begins in mid-September. Rude Pravo reported that international train service has resumed to all countries but Hungary.

-2-

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5. According to a Reuters report today the Czechoslovak press is prepared to censor itself. The new censorship bureau has issued broad guidelines that no "negative information and comment" concerning Moscow and its allies, or critical comment of the party, police, Worker's Militia, or army will be tolerated.

6. Radio Bratislava reportedly broadcast today that Hungarian troops were beginning to leave Czechoslovakia, and Reuters reported that Polish and Bulgarian occupation troops were also withdrawing. As yet, however, there is no firm evidence that any occupying ground forces have left the country.

7. Several military attaches in Hungary have made trips to areas in the southern part of the country near the Rumanian and Yugoslav borders from 30 August to 2 September and report no Soviet or Hungarian military activity indicative of a buildup in these areas.

-3-
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