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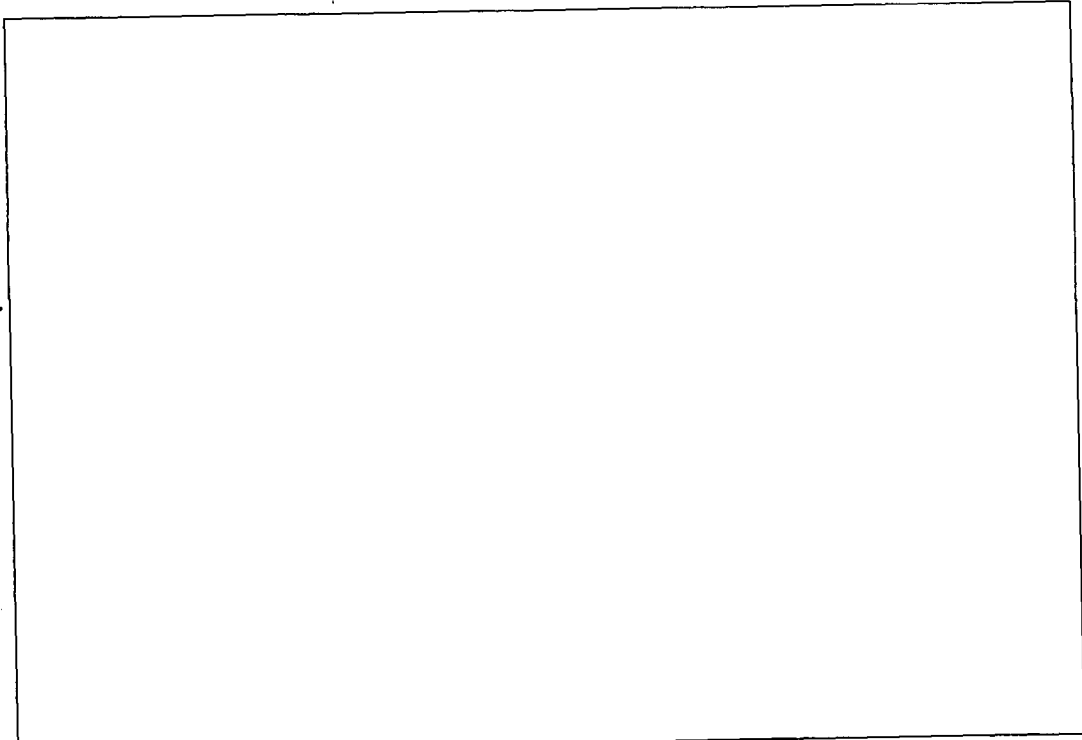
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
25 August 1968



INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia  
(As of 2000 EDT)



2. We doubt that Svoboda, who has consistently urged calm and caution on all elements of Czechoslovak people, has now issued an order to the Czechoslovak

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military to resist Soviet forces.

to suggest that disarmament of the Czechoslovak forces--willing or forcible--is imminent, but such an order could have grown out of the negotiations in Moscow.

3. The prospect for a major outbreak of fighting would of course be less if the order to disarm came from the constituted Czechoslovak government than if Soviet troops forcibly disarmed Czechoslovak units which were resisting. Even if ordered to disarm by Svoboda, however, we doubt disarmament could be accomplished without serious outbreaks of trouble. Much would depend on who endorsed the order, i.e., whether or not Dubcek and other liberals in both Moscow and Prague signed it. If there were conflicting orders from Czechoslovak leaders at liberty in Prague and if it appeared that Svoboda was not a free agent in issuing the order, Soviet forces would probably have to disarm forcibly a considerable number of Czechoslovak

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units which from the beginning have vowed to stay peaceable, but armed.

4. The latest reports from Prague indicate that the situation is generally quiet although Soviet forces have occasionally had to use gunfire to disperse small groups of curfew violators. [redacted]

[redacted]

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