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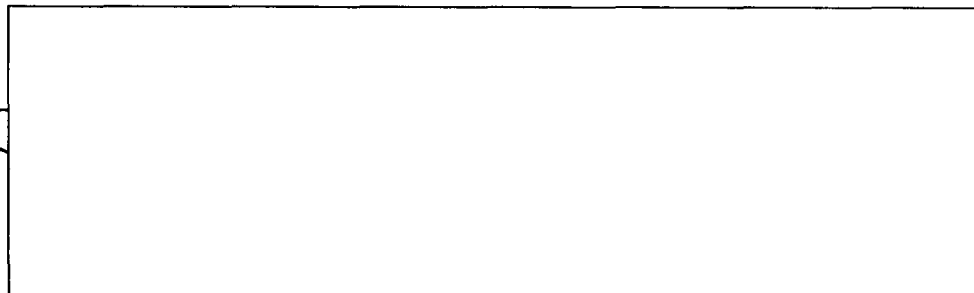
~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~
~~Directorate of Intelligence~~
~~21 July 1968~~

~~INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM~~

← The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 3:00 PM EDT)

5. Prague leaders are stalling on the timing and locale of a meeting with their Soviet counterparts pending the removal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia.

6. The withdrawal reportedly continues at a leisurely pace. Some troops probably will not make it out of the country by the end of the day. Prague radio reports that Soviet signal units were disassembling their equipment and beginning to leave on Saturday have been substantiated, at least in



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[redacted]

3. On 20 July Prague radio said that plans for a meeting at Kosice in eastern Slovakia have now been "abandoned," and termed the Soviet proposal for a gathering in the USSR "unacceptable." Czechoslovak agreement in principle to talk with Moscow is clear from the resolution adopted by the party central committee on 19 July. The document calls for "maximum effort" to bring about such "negotiations" as soon as possible, but it also instructs party leaders that the principles underlying Czechoslovakia's new course are not negotiable. The resolution indicated that the Czechoslovaks believe any negotiations would be protracted.

4. Czechoslovak leaders may be inclined to believe reports of some discord both within the Soviet leadership and among its four allies in Eastern Europe over future tactics in the crisis.

[redacted]

only East German leader Ulbricht proposed military intervention at the Warsaw meeting on

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~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

~~14-15 July, Brezhnev reportedly was willing to consider it, but Kosygin, Kadar, and Gomulka were opposed. [redacted] the Czechoslovaks "understand" that some voices in the Soviet central committee were raised against a hard line with Czechoslovakia.~~

~~5. [redacted] there was no conciliatory proposal in the Soviet letter inviting the Czechoslovaks to a meeting, but Prague is ready to make some concessions in order to keep Moscow from hardening its position. These would include an end to criticism of the Warsaw Pact command structure, a moratorium on independent moves in foreign policy and restraint on linking the Soviets with past political crimes in Czechoslovakia.~~

6. The Soviet and Eastern European press continues its ominous drumfire of propaganda. On 21 July, the Soviet army newspaper, Red Star, carried a Czechoslovak report that "several more" arms caches of US origin were discovered in Czechoslovakia. On the same day, however, the Soviet party daily Pravda strongly denied that participants in the Warsaw meeting had delivered an ultimatum to Prague. East

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German propaganda, nevertheless, now is attacking Dubcek's leadership directly.

7. Rumanian leader Ceausescu and Yugoslav President Tito apparently have deferred their trips to Prague at Czechoslovak request.

8. Prague's attitude toward the proposal for a European Communist conference by French Communist leader Waldeck-Rochet--who returned to Paris from talks in Prague on 20 July--remains equivocal. Prague radio on 20 July appeared to support the

idea, [redacted] for the time being the Czechoslovak leadership is "negative" towards such a meeting. Nevertheless, support for such a conference among West European parties is still growing.

9. Yesterday, the Czechoslovak party daily Rude Pravo rejected Soviet allegations of US involvement in the crisis, concluding that in the present spirit of US-Soviet detente, there is no logic to the thesis that the US has an interest in provoking Moscow by fomenting "counter-revolution" in Czechoslovakia. This editorial may have been designed in part to dampen fears raised by rumors of a Soviet deal with the US over the future of Czechoslovakia.

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