

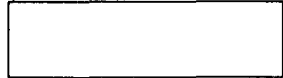
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~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
23 August 1968~~

*sent Ravel...
8/23/68
CAP/2098*

~~INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM~~

Subject: CIA Report on The Situation in Czechoslovakia as of 4 p.m. EDT

JP There is little news thus far on the Svoboda mission to Moscow. According to an account reportedly carried on Moscow television, the talks took place today in a "frank" atmosphere and will be continued tomorrow.

JP The situation in Prague, where martial law was declared tonight, and, generally, throughout Czechoslovakia was quiet.

~~no attention focused on Moscow.~~

JP There have been no significant military developments related to the situation in Czechoslovakia during the past eight hours. *JP* There is no evidence of any threatening moves toward Rumania by Soviet, Hungarian or Bulgarian armed forces.

~~*JP* Izvestia today reportedly gave the Soviet population the first hint that the majority of the Czechoslovak population opposes the invasion by the Warsaw Pact forces. According to Reuters, Izvestia's Prague correspondent has reported that most of the Czechoslovaks with whom he had talked were opposed~~

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DATE: DEC 2004

~~to the occupation, attributing their attitude to the fact that the deposed reformers had misled them with an incorrect party line. Meanwhile, the other Soviet media continue to portray the Czechoslovak population as recognizing that the intervention was timely and necessary. Soviet media have not referred, in any way, to the highly successful general strike conducted not been today in Prague.~~

~~2/11 The Czechoslovak Communist Party presidium has fired Oldrich Svostka as editor-in-chief of the main party daily, Rude Pravo. Svostka, a conservative who has been listed on posters in Prague as a collaborator, was replaced by ideologist Jarmil Sekera. In his initial speech to the party congress, acting Party First Secretary Silhan again urged the populace to be "prudent and calm" and cautioned the local party bodies against "illegal" acts that were not absolutely necessary.~~

~~2/11 Dubcek's wife and two sons returned to Czechoslovakia today, according to a report broadcast by one of the clandestine radios that have sprung up. The same report also indicated that Dubcek's mother pleaded with the Soviet commander in Bratislava to release her son. She was told that Dubcek was not interned, but "we are negotiating with him." The Commander added that Dubcek had broken promises he had made to the Soviets and the other Warsaw Pact interventionists at the Bratislava conference.~~

7. Except for the appearance of 5,000 armed members of the newly reestablished home guard units, the annual national liberation day parade in Bucharest on 23 August went off in customary fashion. As the units marched past the assembled Rumanian leadership, some of the civilian marchers at one point shouted "Dubcek" and "svoboda." The Czechoslovak reform economist, Dr. Ota Sik, is in Bucharest for talks with Rumanian party and state chief Ceausescu.

AP Meanwhile at the Rumanian Embassy in Peking, Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai warmly saluted the Rumanians, their anniversary, and their opposition to the "Warsaw Five's" intervention in Czechoslovakia. Chou also promised Chinese support for the "people" of Czechoslovakia against the "Fascist power politics" of the USSR, while at the same time attacking the Czech leaders as revisionists who had tried to sell out to the US. He claimed that the Soviets intervened to prevent similar "uncontrollable chain reactions" in Eastern Europe. Chou asserted that US acquiescence to the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia was part of a deal involving Soviet acceptance of the US "occupation" of South Vietnam.

AP The Yugoslav Government has officially protested the occupation of Czechoslovakia. Diplomatic representatives in Belgrade of the USSR, Poland, the GDR, Hungary and Bulgaria were handed a note on 22 August expressing Yugoslavia's

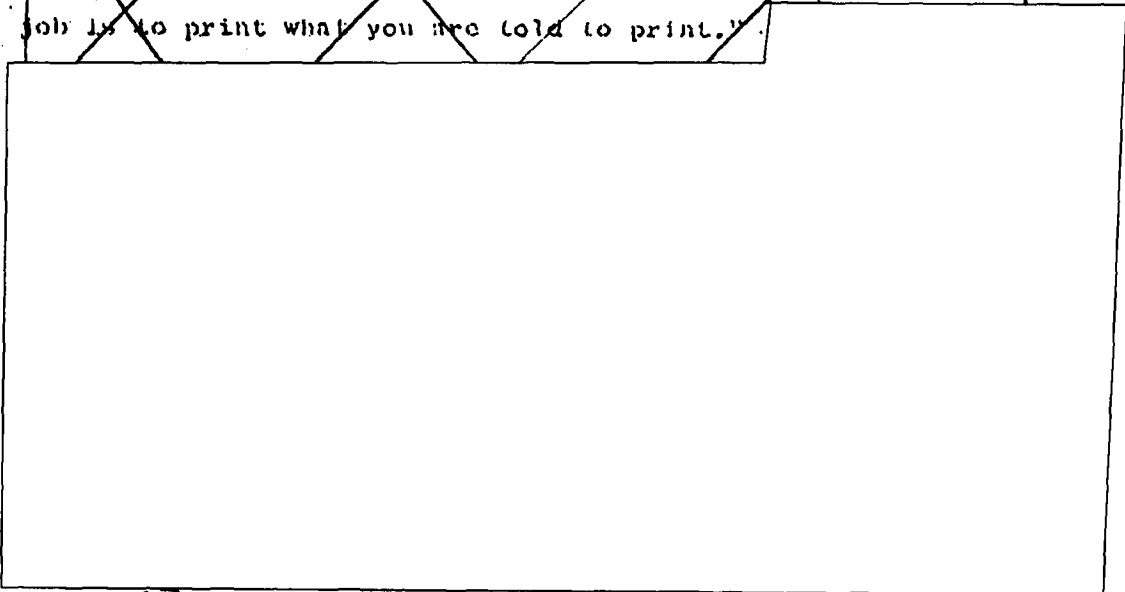
"extreme concern" over their unlawful entry into Czechoslovakia.

~~10. After an initial period of relative restraint, Yugoslavia has become more vigorous in its censure of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. The Belgrade diplomatic representatives of the Warsaw Pact five were given an official statement of the Yugoslav government on 22 August which condemns the occupation of Czechoslovakia. The statement describes the intervention as the most brutal form of sovereignty trampling of sovereignty which has no justification. The 22 August issue of the major party organ, Kommunist, was sharply critical of the Warsaw Pact forces. Kommunist stated that the Soviets were motivated by fear of democracy which, according to Kommunist, represents a crisis in the development of the Soviet system. President Tito confirmed Yugoslavia's strong stand in a conversation with the US ambassador on 23 August.~~

~~11. Italian communist leader Luigi Longo censured the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia today in a speech to his party directorate. Expressing grave dissent with the Kremlin's policy, he emphasized that "it belongs to the Communists and government of Czechoslovakia to guarantee the defense of their country." Longo was reporting on his talks with French Communist party leaders in Paris yesterday.~~

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~~E.P.~~ Polish leader Gomulka's first reported activity since the intervention in Czechoslovakia was a 21 August briefing of journalists. In the company of chief ideologist Zenon Kliszko and two central committee press watchdogs, Gomulka attempted to define the proper face to be put on the intervention. A New York Times correspondent reports that, according to his Polish contacts, the meeting was stormy and at one point Gomulka came a little unglued and shouted "your job is to print what you are told to print."



~~E.P.~~ The exodus of American citizens from Czechoslovakia by train and private car continues. A special evacuee train from Prague arrived in Vienna today carrying 245 Americans among its 426 passengers. The US embassy in Prague reports that another 294 Americans left there by special train for

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Frankfurt and Paris ~~at 1000~~ this morning. The Embassy also has dispatched several private car caravans of US citizens.

~~One caravan, reportedly carrying about 100 Americans, crossed the Czechoslovak-West German frontier at Waldhaus. An additional caravan left Prague for Waldhaus at 1100 Prague time this morning.~~

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