

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

Wednesday, July 24, 1968
6:15 p.m.

*Rec'd
6:27*

Mr. President:

Herewith:

- CIA's 4:00 p.m. Czech situation report;
- the evaluation of the probable Czech cave-in

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[Redacted]

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Walt Rostow

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SC #11677/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
24 July 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 4:00 EDT)

1. A Czechoslovak party spokesman hinted at a press conference today that the Soviet Politburo already may be in Czechoslovakia. The spokesman refused to deny officially that the Politburo may have already arrived. Members of the two bodies have not been seen in public or noted by intelligence sources for more than 36 hours.

2. The spokesman also implied that the full Presidium would take part in the "negotiations" with the Soviet leaders, saying that on this disputed question the Czechoslovaks would have to "respect the wishes" of the Soviets. He admitted that some Soviet units remain in Czechoslovakia

[redacted]

some 5000 to 6000 remained--and added, according to one press account, that they "will remain until a communique is published." Moscow may hope in this way to wrest substantial concessions from the Czechoslovaks. The party spokesman implied that there

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might be compromised by the Czechoslovaks, but he said there would be no change in Prague's political line.

3. Czechoslovak media are continuing their heated responses to Soviet press polemics aimed against the Dubcek regime and some of its key leaders. There appears to be a moratorium, however, concerning the meeting with Soviet leaders.

4. Radio Moscow has ridiculed US denials of intervention in the Czechoslovak situation, and repeated earlier charges that the US is making "every effort" to split the Communist countries.

5. With the exception of East Germany no Eastern European country appears to favor Soviet military intervention in Czechoslovakia. [redacted] Warsaw reports that the Polish leadership is adamantly opposed to military intervention. [redacted]

[redacted]
him that the Hungarian government opposes armed intervention in Czechoslovakia.

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central Czechoslovakia moved east on 19-21 July and have probably crossed the USSR-Czechoslovak border. Most Soviet troops from East Germany which deployed into Western Czechoslovakia have returned to southern East Germany.

7. No further details illuminating the extent and activity of the USSR's large rear-services exercise have been received.

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