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## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: SEP 2004

THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
(AS OF 4:00 P. M. EDT)

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1. MOSCOW PLAINLY TIMED TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MASSIVE MILITARY EXERCISE ALONG THE WESTERN FRONTIER OF THE USSR TO BACK UP THE SOVIET POLITBURO AS IT PREPARED FOR ITS CONFRONTATION WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS.

2. THE MILITARY EXERCISE WAS DESCRIBED AS A REAR SERVICES EXERCISE, TO TAKE PLACE IN MOST OF THE WESTERN USSR, INCLUDING THE CARPATHIAN MILITARY DISTRICT ADJACENT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT IS TO CONCLUDE ON 10 AUGUST. AT LEAST ONE OTHER SUCH LARGE REAR SERVICES EXERCISE HAS BEEN HELD AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, IN JULY 1961.

4. SOME SOVIET TROOPS REMAIN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT THE WITHDRAWAL IS CONTINUING. ALTHOUGH SOVIET ELEMENTS ARE STILL LOCATED IN THE OLOMOUC-OSTRAVA AREA OF CENTRAL CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THERE ARE TENUOUS INDICATIONS THAT SOME OF THE TROOPS WHICH WERE LOCATED THERE HAVE MOVED TOWARD THE USSR AND ARE, NOW NEAR THE CZECHOSLOVAK-USSR BORDER.

5. THE BRIEF NOTICE ON THE EXERCISE WAS FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF TODAY'S IZVESTIA, ALONG WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POLITBURO'S DECISION TO MEET WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP ON CZECHOSLOVAK SOIL. UPI QUOTES A "SOVIET SOURCE" AS SAYING THAT THE POLITBURO HAS ALREADY DEPARTED MOSCOW BUT THIS IS UNCONFIRMED. NO SOVIET VIP AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS WERE DETECTED TODAY, BUT THE LEADERSHIP MAY MAKE THIS TRIP BY TRAIN. NEITHER MOSCOW NOR PRAGUE HAS OFFICIALLY INDICATED THAT A TIME FOR THE MEETING HAS BEEN SET.

6. SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS AGAIN STEPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST PRAGUE, TODAY DENOUNCING TWO LEADING FIGURES IN THE DUBCEK REGIME, THE FIRST TO BE SINGLED OUT BY NAME SINCE PRAVDA CASTIGATED CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY SECRETARY CISAR IN MAY. THE SOVIET MILITARY JOURNAL RED STAR BELABORED MAJOR GENERAL FRCHLIK, THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, FOR HIS WELL-PUBLICIZED CRITICISM OF THE WARSAW PACT COMMAND STRUCTURE IN A PRESS CONFERENCE A WEEK AGO. IZVESTIA, SOMEWHAT INDIRECTLY, LEVELED AN ATTACK AT THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, JOSEF PAVEL. THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT PAPER REPRINTED AN UNSIGNED LETTER WHICH HAD APPEARED IN A BULGARIAN NEWSPAPER, CHARGING PAVEL WITH COMPLICITY IN THE PURGE TRIALS OF THE 1950'S.

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7. PRAGUE HAS YET TO ACKNOWLEDGE OFFICIALLY THAT BI-LATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE ENTIRE RULING BODIES OF THE CPSU AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY. LAST NIGHT PRESIDUM MEMBER JOSEF SMRKOVSKY INFORMED JOURNALISTS AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION THAT ONLY SIX MEMBERS FROM BOTH SIDES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS. SMRKOVSKY'S STATEMENT MAY NOT REPRESENT THE FINAL VIEWS OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, BUT IT PROBABLY DOES REFLECT WHAT DUBCEK CONSIDERS DESIREABLE. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN PRAGUE CONFIRMED THAT THE TIME, PLACE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING ARE STILL BEING DISCUSSED.

8. CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS APPARENTLY VIEWED THE INITIAL TASS STATEMENT ON THE MEETING AS A SIGN THAT MOSCOW WAS EASING ITS PRESSURE. [REDACTED] THAT "ONE ROUND IS OVER, BUT WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT." PRAGUE HAS YET TO COMMENT ON TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EXERCISE IN THE SOVIET UNION.

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