

(85) (9) INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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SECRET/SENSITIVE Thursday, July 25, 1968  
5:20 p. m.

Rec'd  
550P

MR. PRESIDENT:

Herewith a not very cheerful Czech sitrep  
as of 4 p. m.

W. W. Rostow

~~SECRET/SAVIN~~ attachment

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
**Directorate of Intelligence**  
**25 July 1968**

**INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM**

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

1. The Soviets began moving large numbers of troops in East Germany today in what is apparently yet another device for putting military pressures on the Czechoslovaks.

[redacted]

divisions have been moving south of Berlin. Large areas south and west of Berlin, and along the Czechoslovak border have been temporarily closed to allied military mission travel and these divisions could be deploying into these areas [redacted]

3. The Polish army, according to one unconfirmed report, had requisitioned all flat cars and freight cars at least as early as 23 July. Any large scale movements of troops and vehicles--particularly tanks--would require the use of these rail cars. There have been no other indications of Polish army movements or increased Polish military activity.

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

4. There appears to be some small scale activity in the Moscow area related to the announced rear services exercise. A convoy of civilian and military vehicles was observed on 23 July, indicating that there is at least some mobilization activity taking place. The Soviets announced on 25 July that a widespread air defense exercise was also taking place.

5. According to an unconfirmed Czechoslovak press report, the Soviet Union has barred tourists from crossing the border from the USSR into Czechoslovakia until the end of July.

6. There are no indications of any change in the disposition of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia. Some Soviet troops continue to be located in the Olomouc-Ostrava area of central Czechoslovakia. A Soviet convoy and an estimated 2,000 troops were reportedly encamped at Zilina east of Ostrava through 23 July. [REDACTED]

7. News broadcasts by Moscow and Prague concerning the activities of certain members of their leaderships indicate that the meeting of the Soviet Politburo and Czechoslovak Presidium has not begun. TASS reported that Premier Kosygin received the visiting Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Trade in Moscow this morning. Later Radio Moscow reported that President Podgorny participated in a ceremony at the Kremlin.

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8. Last night Radio Prague reported that party leader Dubcek attended a party meeting in Prague on 24 July. Today Premier Cernik presided over a government meeting.

9. Pravda today for the first time linked the Czechoslovak and Chinese heresies charging them with "having in common their striving to substitute national variants for Leninism." The implication would seem to be that both are beyond the pale of the orthodox Communist movement. The Pravda article went on to charge that the counter-revolutionary "platform" has found "firm supporters in the ranks of the party and among some of its leading representatives" in Czechoslovakia. This is the strongest and broadest attack Moscow has yet leveled against the leadership of the Czechoslovak party.

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