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Rustan

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
10 May 1968


EO 12958 6.1(c)>25Yrs

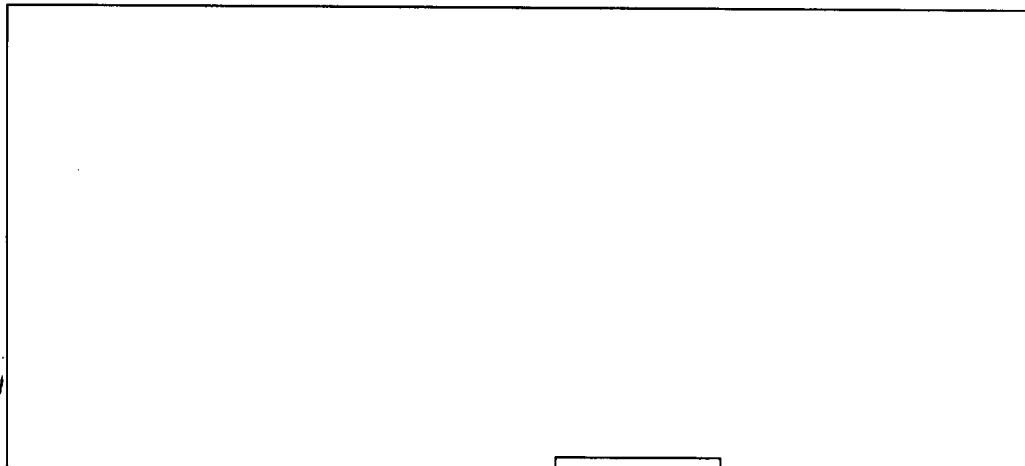
INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 7:00 A.M. EDT)

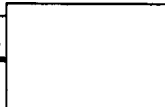
1. There is still no confirmation of Soviet troop movements on the Czechoslovak borders.

2. Additional Soviet  activity in Southeastern East Germany probably involving elements of the 20th Guards Army has been reported, but no large troop movement in the area can be confirmed. (USCOB

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(S) Berlin has been requested  to arrange collection of low altitude photography of selected 20th Guards Army installations in the Berlin area to ascertain if these Soviet units have departed home stations.)



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[redacted]

3.

[redacted]

The French military attache

states that the Soviet armored unit he observed moving south of Krakow on 8 May was "clean," indicating a movement into position rather than a return from maneuvers. During travel on 9 May, the French air attache in Warsaw saw Polish armored carriers and 50 other vehicles moving south on the west side of the Vistula River south of the city.

4.

[redacted] Warsaw reports that "NATO

attaches" have concluded that Soviet and Polish units have moved into position as a show of force rather than as an ordinary maneuver. [redacted]

[redacted] there are rumors in the city

that the Soviets, Poles, and East Germans are holding maneuvers at the Czech border and that some reservists have been notified of an imminent call-up for the

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**exercises. Western diplomats and military attaches
apparently are still confined to Warsaw.**

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5. [redacted]

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6. [redacted]

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**7. There are no [redacted]
significant movements within or outside the Carpathian
Military District.** [redacted]

**8. The Soviet press has not reacted as yet to the
reports of troop movements which have appeared in the
Western press, nor has it replayed Polish press attacks
on alleged "anti-socialist" elements in Czechoslovakia.
The Soviet press continues to give extensive coverage,
however, to events in Czechoslovakia, with several**

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factual reports on the activities of official Soviet delegations which are there for Liberation Day celebrations. These delegations, including a group of high-ranking military figures, are apparently continuing previously scheduled ceremonial activities.

9. In contrast to their recent open answers to reporters' questions, Czechoslovak officials were unavailable for comment yesterday on reports of Soviet troop movements toward their borders. Their evasiveness was aided by the closure of government offices for a three-day holiday on the occasion of the liberation anniversary. Unofficial Czechoslovak newspapers continued to hammer away at the failure of the Soviet Union fully to endorse Prague's "spring revolution," and at inimical Polish attitudes.

10. The closest thing to an official Czechoslovak comment came in a "message to the Soviet people" sent from the celebrations in Prague. In subdued tones, the message reasserted Czechoslovakia's commitment to changes, as outlined previously in the party's action program. Its pledge of cooperation with the socialist countries' fight "against imperialism" was weakly stated and made contingent on "consistent realization of the principle

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of non-interference in the internal affairs of individual countries."

11. The Poles have continued their open pressure on the Dubcek regime, repeating again on 9 May that "revisionist and anti-socialist forces supported by imperialist centers of subversion were trying to use changes in Czechoslovakia to unbalance the leading role of the Communist party and weaken ties between Czechoslovakia and other socialist countries." Warsaw newspapers hinted broadly that it was time the new Czechoslovak authorities brought such forces under control. Provincial party boss Gierak, who may someday be Gomulka's successor, gave a harsh speech in the Czechoslovak border town of Tesin, warning that slogans about "democracy, free speech, and culture" were being used by international "imperialist circles" against Communism in Czechoslovakia.

12. East German leaders sent a completely innocuous telegram of congratulations to Prague, [redacted]

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13. A Hungarian official, in contrast, again voiced the regime's approval of Czechoslovak reforms at a Budapest rally on 9 May, but at the same he included a number of thinly veiled warnings about the necessity for cooperation with the Soviet Union, CEMA and the Warsaw Pact. Despite Soviet apprehensions which were expressed to Marshal Tito last week, the Yugoslav President sent unusually long and effusive messages of congratulations to Czechoslovak leaders.

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