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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
19 July 1968

~~CIA INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM~~

Following is CIA SITREP ON The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 8:00 AM, EDT)

The enlarged Czechoslovak party central committee plenum convened as scheduled this morning with party boss Dubcek giving the opening speech. No text is available yet but he probably will repeat much of what he said in his fifteen minute nation-wide broadcast yesterday. The meeting, chaired by party presidium member Cernik, is to discuss, and presumably endorse, the stand of the party presidium in response to the letter from the Inner Five.

The Peoples Militia, which just last week had issued a statement critical of the liberals' "2000 Word Letter" that Moscow found so offensive, issued a statement late last night approving the party presidium's statement in response to "the letter of the five fraternal parties."

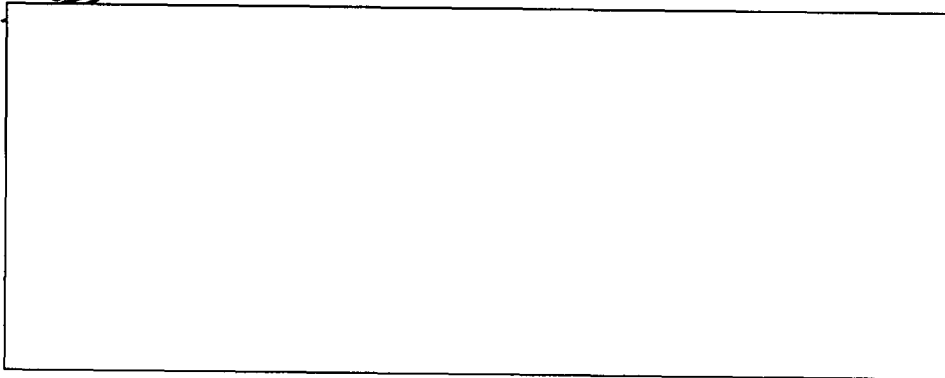
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3. Today's Pravda carries articles (summarized by US wire services) which have the object of filling out the allegation that there is a looming threat in Czechoslovakia to the security of Eastern Europe. The Soviet newspaper charges that a cache of US-manufactured weapons brought in from West Germany has been uncovered in Western Czechoslovakia by Czech security police. The story was replayed within two hours by the Bulgarian news service and may be picked up soon by other Eastern European wire services. Pravda also alleges that the Soviets have put their hands on a top secret NATO document which lays out a plan--purportedly prepared by the Pentagon and CIA--for subverting Czechoslovakia.

4. Prague is said now to be expecting Soviet party leader Brezhnev to come to Czechoslovakia for talks during the coming weekend.

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~~Czechoslovakia -~~
~~Soviet Union~~

Insert

Podgorny this morning added his voice to the Soviet chorus which has been warning about the "threat to socialism" in Czechoslovakia. Referring to the "notorious events in Czechoslovakia," he reiterated earlier Soviet declarations that the parties which met in Warsaw "will never put up with a split in the historical gains of socialism."

~~TOP SECRET~~

