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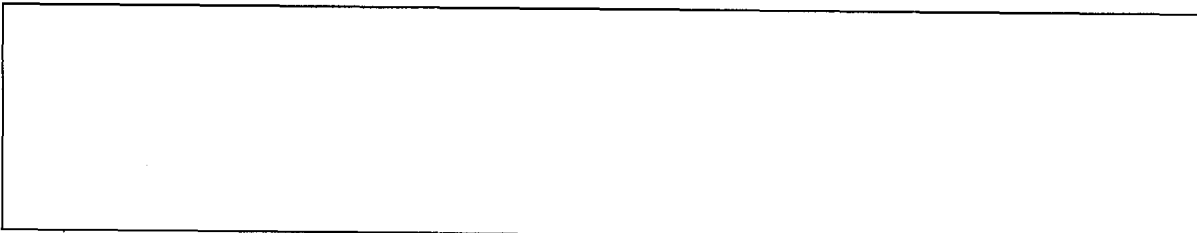
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
1 September 1968



INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Rumania and Czechoslovakia
(As of 1530 EDT)

1. The US Attache in Bucharest reported today that tension in Bucharest has decreased. He stated that the many militia officers and security troops who had been in the Rumanian capital are now gone. A UPI correspondent also reported that Bucharest was calm as well as the town of Iasi, only sixteen miles from the Soviet-Rumanian border.



3. A Radio Czechoslovakia broadcast this morning reported that the government's press secretary has denied that Premier Cernik appealed for the "best people" in the country to leave because the Soviets have compiled a blacklist.

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Rude Pravo reportedly published a manifesto signed by more than twenty intellectuals denying that there has been a mass exodus. Both the broadcast and Rude Pravo statement are probably designed to calm down the jittery populace. The US Embassy reported yesterday that a considerable number of intellectuals and news media representatives are preparing to go underground or leave the country. (See Situation Report as of 0700, 1 September) In addition, Deputy Interior Minister Jan Zaruba reportedly has committed suicide rather than work with the Soviets.

4. Some Czechoslovaks, meanwhile, continue to question the value of the Moscow agreement. Radio Czechoslovakia this morning pointed out that thus far all the compromises have been made by Prague and criticized the Soviet Union for not abiding by the agreement's provision that Moscow would not interfere in Czechoslovakia's internal affairs. Lidova Demokracie, the People's Party paper, succinctly summarized the situation by pointing to the vicious circle argument that troops will not leave until the situation "normalizes," and the situation will not normalize until the troops leave.

5. Soviet forces continue to stamp out Czechoslovak media resisting the occupation. A transmitter in Bohemia

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curtailed its activities on 1 September, informing its listeners that "foreign troops" had occupied the station. A Slovakian party newspaper stopped distribution today following Soviet military censorship of a "number of articles." The Soviets are still pursuing their castigation of Literarni Listy, whose offices reportedly were sacked on 29 August following its defiance of the occupation. The journal subsequently ceased publication on its own rather than submit to censorship.

6. The disappearance of Czechoslovak news organs is now being accompanied by the emergence of Soviet-controlled ones. Russian soldiers drove through Prague on 31 August distributing free copies of an occupation newspaper, Zpravy (News). Also, the Soviet-controlled clandestine radio, the "Workers Voice of the Republic," called for a purge of all those who "committed actions against the party in the Novotny era."

7. The Soviets are now making public references to Dubcek on their news media. Dubcek was considered by "Workers Voice" to have the "confidence" of the Czechoslovak party. Dubcek also appeared on Moscow television for the first time, shown seated along side of Svoboda at the Moscow talks. Meanwhile, the Soviets have made no mention of their own leadership recently, other than brief remarks describing the public

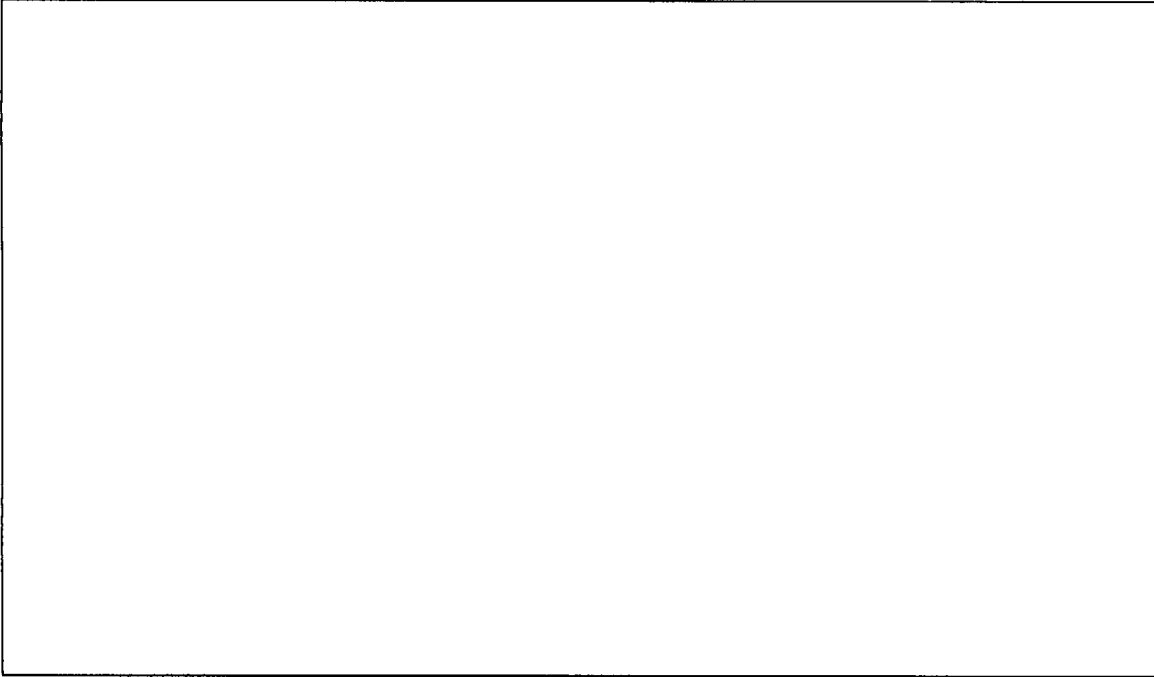
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appearances of two First Deputy Premiers, Mazurov and Polyansky.

8. Moscow is telling its own readership that counter-revolutionary forces are still active in Czechoslovakia, thus justifying a continued need for the occupation. On the other hand, a Pravda commentary describing opposition to the occupation by other Communist parties made no reference to either Yugoslavia or Rumania. This may be the first indication, albeit a tenuous one, that Moscow is trying to stop rumors regarding still another Warsaw Pact invasion.

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12. The next SitRep will be published at 1100 EDT on 2 September unless the incoming information dictates otherwise.

LATE ITEM

13. The Czechoslovak central committee, which apparently ended its deliberations this morning, heard party leader Dubcek again stress that Czechoslovakia must avoid arousing suspicions that ^{it} will not live up to the Moscow agreement. He noted that in the past Prague had not sufficiently taken into account the "dark and real power of international factors," including the views of Moscow.

14. In a tacit admission that the party's reform program may be over, Dubcek stated that the strategic and general interests of Moscow and its allies impose "real, objectively existing, and limiting factors" for the "pace and form" of

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Czechoslovakia's political development. In general, Dubcek's speech provides further evidence that Prague has been forced to accept Moscow's directives concerning its internal affairs -- despite the Moscow agreement.

15. Nonetheless, the central committee did select a new party presidium which apparently is largely progressive or moderate in composition. Political labels, however, may no longer mean as much as they did before the intervention. Of the 21 presidium members (an increase of ten), 13 were named to the presidium selected by the 14th Party Congress, which met on 22 August and was subsequently denounced as "illegal" by Moscow. The communique suggests, as did an earlier speech by Dubcek, that the party has decided to set aside the results of the 14th Congress.

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