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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
30 July 1968

SUBJECT: The Situation in Czechoslovakia as of 4:00 p.m. EDT

Speculation on the course and outcome of the talks is coming in from all sides, but none of it seems based on hard information. Both the Czechs and TASS today said only that the meeting was taking place in an atmosphere of "frankness and comradeship", a phrase which, according to Communist usage, signals tough talk but not total disagreement.

[redacted] some elements of the Czechoslovak armed forces may be on a limited alert. TASS announced late yesterday that the rear services exercise which began last week in the western USSR is now continuing in Poland and East Germany with the participation of rear services of the Polish and East German armies. [redacted]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

[redacted] Soviet troops have crossed into Poland at several points along the USSR-Polish border.

The Soviets continue to reinforce their ground units in southern East Germany. There are now elements of as many as ten Soviet divisions in the area adjacent to the Czechoslovak border. There has been no significant change in the status of the estimated 250 Soviet combat aircraft which deployed into southern East Germany and southern Poland on 27-28 July. A few aircraft have returned to home bases.

The East German Army's 7th Tank Division, Dresden, and 11th Motorized Rifle Division, Halle, [redacted]

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

[redacted] East German Defense Minister Hoffmann was received in Moscow this morning by Soviet Defense Minister Grechko.

[redacted] some elements of the four Soviet divisions in Hungary may be moving into the field. [redacted]

[redacted] roadblocks and some convoys moving toward Czechoslovakia on 27-28 July. No unusual Hungarian military activity was observed.

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

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The Dubcek leadership appears to be taking steps to improve its negotiating position at Cierna. In a move which may be more significant for its timing than its content, the Czechoslovaks yesterday gave the appearance of restoring a limited form of censorship. The Interior Ministry issued a 35-page list of official secrets to chief editors and publishers.

Italian Communist party leaders are keeping the pressure on Moscow, and [REDACTED] Tito is willing to go to Prague at a moment's notice if requested to do so by the Czechoslovaks.

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)