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NLT,001.181.004/1

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2001

OCI #0758/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 August 1968



INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1630 EDT)

1. Dubcek has called for a meeting of the pre-invasion Czechoslovak party central committee tomorrow, 31 August, to elect a new presidium, according to unconfirmed Western press reports. Dubcek's action implicitly repudiates the progressive central committee elected by the extraordinary 14th party congress which convened secretly during the occupation. It is unknown still just what the opposition may be to this move by Dubcek, which was probably taken to satisfy the Soviets.

2. The Western press reports that Russian security forces in Prague are taking over key posts in important ministries. Several liberal ministers, including Minister of Interior Pavel, are said to be ready to resign.

3. Diplomatic sources in Belgrade reported today that Deputy Czechoslovak/Premier Ota Sik will await the settlement of the new government in Prague before he returns home. According

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to Reuters Sik, who has been a prime target of Soviet attacks, reportedly fears abduction or arrest if he goes back to Prague now.

4. Apparently most Czechoslovak radio broadcasts are now being made by regular pre-invasion workers and censorship is in effect. Czechoslovak Radio Danube today, however, demanded the withdrawal of troops from radio and TV buildings and some newspaper offices that are still occupied. FBIS reports that technical indicators seem to suggest that two stations broadcasting a pro-Soviet line are actually located in East Germany and Poland rather than in Czechoslovakia as was previously reported.

5. Radio Czechoslovakia today broadcast a statement of the Central Committee of the National Front asking the government to negotiate an agreement to insure the departure of foreign armed forces so that "the full sovereignty of our state is restored." In a tacit recognition that the occupation may last indefinitely, however, the National Front also "insisted unconditionally" on non-interference in Czechoslovak internal affairs by occupying forces.

6. There has been no substantial change detected in the status of Warsaw Pact forces in and around Czechoslovakia today.

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