

~~SECRET~~APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUN 2001

OCI #0754/68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
26 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1100 EDT)

1. The Soviet-Czechoslovak talks in Moscow may be in their final stage, if they have not already ended. Western press reports affirm that the meetings have wound up. A spokesman of the Czechoslovak Embassy in Moscow subsequently stated that they were still in progress, but indicated they would not go on much longer by saying that the Czechoslovak delegation would return to Prague this evening.

2. A report by the Rumanian press service earlier today that some occupation forces had begun to withdraw from Czechoslovakia is unconfirmed and doubtful.

3. The US Embassy in Prague has reported that it has had trouble with the Soviet troops and expects more. Some Soviet troops--over 40, according to AP--ringed the Embassy compound this morning but then withdrew.

4. UPI has reported that a 15-minute general strike in Prague today was highly successful. Other western news

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

agencies report that Soviet troops fired in the air to disperse a crowd in Wencoslas Square.

5. Pravda, in a widely disseminated editorial this morning, has stated frankly that "the situation in Czechoslovakia remains complex and tense." Previously, the Soviet press has merely intimated that the Soviet intervention was not going well.

-2-

~~SECRET~~