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FM CIA
TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
SSO ACSI DA
SSO ARLINGTON HALL STATION
AFSSO USAF
CNO
DIA/ISIC
JCS
NIC
DIRNSA COMMAND CENTER
STATE (RCI)
CIA-OCI
ZEM

1968 AUG 23 20 46

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2001

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(S)

~~SECRET NOFORN~~

CITE [REDACTED]
COUNTRY: [REDACTED]
DOI: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: SITREP AS OF 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(S)

ACQ: [REDACTED]
SOURCE: [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs
(S)

1. A SECRET CZECH RADIO STATION ACCUSED THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR, SALVOLICH (PHONETIC) OF COLLABORATING WITH THE SOVIETS. THE STATION CLAIMED THAT HE PREPARED THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH OTHER TRAITORS IN THE STATE SECURITY SERVICE AND HAD ALREADY MADE ARRESTS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF SOVIET TROOPS.

2. THE SITUATION IN BRNO WAS GROWING TENSER. NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEGUN BETWEEN THE CITY ADMINISTRATION AND THE COMMANDER OF SOVIET TROOPS GENERAL IVANOV, WHO ACCUSED BRNO INHABITANTS OF PROVOCATION AND CLAIMED THAT THE BRNO RADIO STATION WAS INTERFERING WITH SOVIET BROADCASTS AND OTHER SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS.

3. TRAVEL ACROSS THE AUSTRO-CZECH BORDER HAD SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASED SINCE EARLY MORNING OF 23 AUGUST. FOREIGNERS WERE NO LONGER PERMITTED TO ENTER THE CSSR. CZECH CITIZENS WERE PERMITTED TO CROSS THE BORDER IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. AT SOME CZECH BORDER POINTS BLACK FLAGS FLYING NEXT TO THE CZECH NATIONAL COLORS.

4. AUSTRIAN AIRLINES ANNOUNCED THAT PASSENGERS OF CZECH NATIONALITY ON AUSTRIAN AND CZECH AIRLINES DESTINED TO PRAGUE COULD PROCEED ON A SPECIAL TRAIN LEAVING VIENNA AT 1400 HOURS FOR PRAGUE. USE OF THE TRAIN WAS LIMITED TO CSSR CITIZENS.

5. A CORRESPONDENT OF RADIO AUSTRIA IN A DIRECT TELEPHONE REPORT FROM PRAGUE AT NOON STATED THAT THE LAST BROADCAST OF FREE RADIO PRAGUE SAID THE MILITIA HAD ANNOUNCED FULL SUPPORT FOR DUBCEK AND THAT ITS COMMANDER HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

6. THREE AUTOMOBILE CREWS WERE DRIVING THROUGH PRAGUE ARRESTING INTELLECTUALS, JOURNALISTS AND LIBERALS ON THE ORDERS OF CZECH SECURITY SERVICE PERSONNEL SAID TO NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 40, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WERE DISMISSED SOME TIME AGO FROM THE SECRET SERVICE.

7. RADIO FREE PRAGUE HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE AIR. RADIO BRNO HAD STARTED BROADCASTING ON THE SAME FREQUENCY.

8. SOVIETS OCCUPIED THE TELEPHONE CENTRAL IN PRAGUE. ALL TELEPHONE CONTACTS BETWEEN PRAGUE AND THE REST OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE APPARENTLY CUT OFF.

9. THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ANNOUNCED THAT AS A RESULT OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IT FOUND NO EVIDENCE ANY PART OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT HAD ASKED SOVIET ASSISTANCE. THE STATEMENT SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ANTI-SOCIALIST ELEMENTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT WORK IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, NOTHING WARRANTED THE ACTION BY FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES IN INVADING THE CSSR. THE CZECH GOVERNMENT UNDER DUBCEK WAS IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY URGED THE SOVIETS TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS AND RESTORE THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT TO THE CSSR AND ASKED ALL COMMUNIST PARTIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORT TO RESTORE NORMALCY.

EO 12958
3.4(h)(1)-25Yrs
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10. MINISTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEGATION IN VIENNA PAVEL NOVOTNY SAID ON 23 AUGUST THE LEGATION HAD RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM THE CZECH FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTING HIM TO RETURN TO PRAGUE AND ORDERING FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK NOT TO GO TO NEW YORK. NOVOTNY SAID THEY INTENDED TO IGNORE THE MESSAGES WHICH OBVIOUSLY WERE SENT AT THE INSTRUCTION OF WHATEVER NEW GROUP IS IN CONTROL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK STAYED IN THE HOME OF NOVOTNY 22 AUGUST ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK.

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