

~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/CONTROLLED DISSEM/BACKGROUND~~
(classification) (dissem controls) ~~USE ONLY~~

UNTIL DINNER TIME. SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE TALKS DUBCEK AND THE OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK CONFEREES WERE EXASPERATED BY THE GERMANS' CONDUCT. UNLIKE PAST OCCASIONS WHEN ULBRICHT HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE, EAST GERMAN PREMIER WILLY STOPH TOOK THE LEAD IN TELLING THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HOW THINGS SHOULD BE DONE AND HOW WELL THEY ARE DONE BY THE GERMANS. ULBRICHT DID FAVOR THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WITH A FEW LECTURES, BUT MUCH LESS SO THAN DURING HIS TALKS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK.

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3. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS LISTENED PATIENTLY TO THE GERMANS, PRESENTED THE CZECHOSLOVAK VIEW IN GENERAL TERMS AND ENDEAVORED TO PREVENT ANY COMPLICATIONS IN RELATIONS WITH THE GERMANS. ULBRICHT BEGAN HIS REMARKS BY TALKING ABOUT THE EAST GERMAN ARMY, ALL OF WHICH MADE A VERY POOR IMPRESSION ON DUBCEK. ULBRICHT SAID THE EAST GERMANS HAVE A DISCIPLINED, WELL-TRAINED ARMY WITHOUT ANY INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND WHICH IS MUCH STRONGER THAN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S. THEY CAN RELY ON THEIR ARMY AT ANY TIME, HE SAID, AND IT HAS THE CAPABILITY OF DEFENDING THE ENTIRE BORDER WITH WEST GERMANY. THUS, ACCORDING TO ULBRICHT, THE OTHER BLOC COUNTRIES CAN RELY ON EAST GERMANY FOR THIS DEFENSE.

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4. THERE WAS FURTHER EAST GERMAN BOASTING WITH RESPECT TO EAST GERMANY'S STRENGTHS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD, E.G., NO DISUNITY AMONG HER ARTISTS AND HER STRONG INFLUENCE OVER A DISCIPLINED YOUTH WHICH DOES NOT CRITICIZE THE REGIME BUT PREFERS TO SING PATRIOTIC SONGS. DUBCEK DID NOT IMMEDIATELY REACT TO THESE STATEMENTS, ALTHOUGH HE OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTOOD THEM TO BE INDIRECT ATTACKS AGAINST THE KSC LEADERSHIP'S ALLEGED WEAKNESS.

5. THE EAST GERMANS DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE CZECHOSLOVAK POSITION, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S INTENTIONS TO OBTAIN VOLUNTARY POPULAR COOPERATION BASED ON COMPLETE FREEDOM UNDER WHICH GREATER INITIATIVE WILL DEVELOP AS THE PEOPLE SEE EFFORTS TO BUILD A BETTER ECONOMY AS BEING IN THEIR OWN INTEREST.

6. DURING A TALK WITH NEWSPAPERMEN, DUBCEK SAID HE THOUGHT HE SHOULD RESPOND TO ULBRICHT'S STATEMENT ON THE EAST GERMAN ARMY'S CAPABILITY FOR SECURING THE ENTIRE BORDER WITH WEST GERMANY. HE SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMED FORCES CAN ALONE DEFEND THE CZECHOSLOVAK-WEST GERMAN BORDER.

7. NO OTHER INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS OCCURRED DURING THE TALKS. THE EAST GERMAN DELEGATION INCLUDED SOME ECONOMIC EXPERTS, BUT

ECONOMIC TALKS WERE ONLY GENERAL IN NATURE. BOTH SIDES ACKNOWLEDGED

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THE NECESSITY FOR GREATER COOPERATION AND AGREED TO MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING LEVEL.

8. IN DISCUSSING THE TALKS' POSITIVE ASPECTS, THE CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIAL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THEM SAID BOTH SIDES, AND PARTICULARLY EAST GERMANY, FOUND IT POSSIBLE TO GET ALONG WELL TOGETHER, AND PRAGUE MADE CLEAR ITS DESIRE NOT TO HAVE ANY COMPLICATIONS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND NOT TO HAVE ANY INTERFERENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S AFFAIRS. THE TALKS DID NOT, HOWEVER, LEAD TO CORDIAL RELATIONS, AND THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE CONFIRMED IN THEIR VIEW THAT THERE ARE NO IDEAS TO BE GOTTEN FROM THE EAST GERMANS WHICH WOULD HAVE APPLICATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE EAST GERMANS HAD COUCHED THEIR ARGUMENTS IN MARXIST TERMINOLOGY AND MADE CONSIDERABLE REFERENCE TO THE NEED TO INTENSIFY THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION, BUT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS RESPONDED IN LOW KEY IN ORDER TO AVOID POLEMICS.

9. DISSEM: NONE.

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