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NTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 10 MAY 1968

1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

COUNTRY CZECHOSLOVAKIA [REDACTED]
DOI [REDACTED] 4. 10 23 22 Z
SUBJECT [REDACTED]
PRESENT USSR ATTITUDES TOWARD
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

S

ACQ [REDACTED]

FIELD NO.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

- 1. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

CURRENT USSR/CZECHOSLOVAKIAN RELATIONS:

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A. THE USSR SHOWS TWO FACES TOWARD THE CR QUESTION.

THE OFFICIAL REACTION IS NOT BAD, BUT THE UNOFFICIAL FACE IS
ONE IN WHICH "INVISIBLE" PRESSURES AGAINST THE NEW CR LINE
IS BEING APPLIED. THESE INCLUDE THE SOVIET PRESS (WHICH IS

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UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE USSR LEADERSHIP), THE THREAT OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE OF VARIOUS TYPES INCLUDING HOSTILITY OF A MORE VOCAL AND OVERT NATURE FROM POLAND.

B. PRESSURES SUCH AS THESE WILL INCREASE AND CONTINUE DURING THE LONG HOT SUMMER BUT THE SOVIETS WILL TAKE NO "HARDER," I. E., MILITARY MEASURES.

C. THE SOVIET INTENTION IS NOT TO OVERTHROW THE NEW LEADERSHIP BUT TO FORCE THE CR TO MODERATE SOME OF ITS MORE EXTREME ACTIONS WHICH ARE INIMICAL TO THE USSR. SPECIFICALLY, THE USSR BELIEVES UNRESTRICTED DIGGING UP OF SO-CALLED SOVIET INSPIRED CRIMES OF THE 1947-53 PERIOD IS NOT ONLY DENIGRATION OF THE USSR BUT OF THE ENTIRE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, AND THAT SUCH HISTORICAL RESEARCH SHOULD BE CONCLUDED IN A WAY THAT NO SHADOW COMES OVER THE KREMLIN.

D. THE NEW CR LINE IS A RISKY ONE FOR A COUNTRY WITH SUCH CLOSE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY TIES TO THE USSR, AND A SHAKEY SITUATION WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER NO MATTER HOW WELL THE SITUATION IS HANDLED AT BOTH ENDS. THE CR SHOULD GO SLOWLY, BUT IT WILL CONTINUE ON THE NEW

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LIVE. REGARDING THE CR PRESS, CENSORSHIP HAS BEEN DONE AWAY WITH AND JOURNALISTS WILL CONTINUE TO WRITE FREELY. IT WOULD BE A CATASTROPHE FOR THE CR TO RESTORE CENSORSHIP AS THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PARLIAMENT AND "ADMINISTRATION ELEMENTS" WILL BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE JOURNALISTS IN DEMOCRATIC WAYS, BY APPEALING TO THEIR PATRIOTISM, ETC. [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] CR JOURNALISTS ARE PROFESSIONAL AND SOPHISTICATED ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THEIR DUTY IN THIS MATTER.

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