

INFORMATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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ps

Wednesday, August 21, 1968
8:10 a. m.

Mr. President:

There is little in this CIA summary you do not already have; but I thought you ought to have it available as the best round up as of 7:00 a. m.

You will note (pp. 2-3) a radio broadcast -- unconfirmed -- that the Soviets have occupied the Central Committee headquarters where Dubcek is believed to have been.

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By *SJ*, NARA, Date *2-5-02*

W. A. Rostow

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EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
(S)CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
The Situation in Czechoslovakia
21 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

(As of 0700 AM EDT)

1. Soviet forces together with some East German, Hungarian, and Polish forces moved quickly into Czechoslovakia and apparently are now firmly in control of Prague and other major urban centers.

2. There was no organized resistance to the swift and well coordinated intervention. There were some reports of gun fire in Prague, but these were apparently isolated exchanges of fire between some Czech citizens and Soviet soldiers. The US Embassy reports that no firing has been heard since 0830. (0330 EDT) Soviet troops are very much in evidence in Prague and the US Army attache estimates that one Soviet airborne division and one Soviet mechanized division plus smaller dismounted rifle units are there. Troops continue to arrive by air.

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3. Many Czech citizens are up and about in the streets gesturing menacingly at the Soviet troops and shouting "go home." Some Soviet vehicles have been chalked with "Russians Go Home," and other derisive epithets.

4. According to Radio Prague, the Czechoslovaks optimistically scheduled meetings of the entire party central committee and the National Assembly for today. A Bratislava television broadcast urging delegates to the party congress, which had been scheduled to meet on 9 September, to attempt to come to Prague suggests the Czechoslovaks also wish the congress to be held immediately.

5. Other than President Svoboda no major Czechoslovak officials have been heard from since the intervention began. Svoboda issued a short statement in which he said he could not clarify the situation but pleaded for calmness, dignity and discipline. A National Assembly member stated in a radio broadcast that the assembly has been unable to locate Josef Smrkovsky, the assembly chairman who has been strongly criticized by the Soviets. A radio Plzen broadcast indicated Soviet

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forces have occupied the central committee headquarters where Dubcek and other party officials were meeting.

6. [redacted]

[redacted] radio Prague alleged this morning that a provisional Czechoslovak government has been formed in Moscow under Miroslav Pastyrik, a former candidate member of the Presidium. There have been no further mentions of former Czechoslovak boss Novotny.

7. Prague radio has announced the arrival by air of "several" but unnamed "high Soviet officials." No further information has been received concerning the mission of this group.

8. Today Pravda in an attempt to justify the intervention features a lead article by Yury Zhukov which rehashes the somewhat stale charges of imperialist involvement in Czechoslovakia which have appeared in the Soviet press for the past few months. The article fails to build a convincing case, however, and the Soviet press has yet to identify any of the "honest and courageous (Czech) leaders" who are alleged to have called for the intervention.

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9. Thus far no Soviet leader has spoken on the situation and there is no further information on the central committee meeting yesterday.

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