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(S)CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
24 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 0700 EDT)

1. The situation in Prague is still relatively calm with attention drawn to the negotiations in Moscow.
2. Unconfirmed reports from Radio Prague indicate that in addition to Czechoslovak party chief Dubcek, Premier Cernik has also been released by the Soviets in Moscow and permitted to join the Czechoslovak delegation.
3. TASS, after reporting on the first round of talks, delivered a lengthy indictment of conditions in Czechoslovakia and charged that "reactionary forces" were stepping up resistance to the occupation troops. TASS also labeled the Czechoslovak Communist Party congress "illegal" since it was convened without central committee approval, and because it included "no Slovak communists, no communist workers, or army communists."
4. Radio broadcasting by loyalists remains at a high level despite reports of the closing down of some transmitters. At least five "free" radio stations were still broadcasting this morning and all stations

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broadcast a joint ten-minute newscast which suggests that there is still surprising coordination between the radios. One clandestine station reported this morning that the Soviets were setting up TV relay equipment on the grounds of the Russian Embassy. The radio appealed to power workers and technicians to foul this station's relays.

5. The pro-Dubcek forces, maintaining their vigilance against possible quislings, have attacked Presidium member Emil Rigo and Karel Hoffman, director of communications in party headquarters. According to [REDACTED] Hoffman deliberately cut off phone communications on the night of the invasion. Hoffman was condemned as a traitor in a Radio Czechoslovakia interview with Smrkovsky (taped before his arrest).

6. Radio Czechoslovakia today called for a nationwide plebiscite to vote on two questions: the immediate withdrawal of the Soviet occupation troops and the establishment of a group of experts to assess the material damage caused by the occupation.

7. Ambassador Beam has informed the Department that he is allowing American correspondents in Prague to use the telex machine in a room in the chancery outside the secure area. He notes that the risks are obvious but tolerable in comparison with the benefits of getting news.

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out in the present situation which borders on the chaotic. He points out that no law is being violated and that if those in control disapprove they have only to cut the connection. [REDACTED]

8. Some Czechoslovak soldiers near Prague have been disarmed, according to the US military attache, but there is no evidence to suggest that all Czechoslovak troops are being disarmed.

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