

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2004

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SC #11248.00

EO 12958 3.3(b) (1) >25Yrs
(S)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
27 August 1968

~~INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM~~

Subject: CIA's report on

The Situation In Czechoslovakia
(As of 1630 EDT) August 27, 1968.
4:30 PM

*sent Rusk via wire
CA P 82/95*

1. Dubcek's address to the nation today, like President Svoboda's earlier, was a grave, emotion-laden appeal to Czechoslovak people to understand that he had brought some bad news back from Moscow. Some accounts say that Dubcek shed tears during his delivery. Both leaders indicated that Soviet troops will remain in the country for an indefinite time and that tightened press control is in the offing.

2. The US Embassy in Prague assesses the communique issued at the conclusion of the Moscow talks as a "nearly complete Soviet victory, at least on paper."

3. Dubcek called for unity, order, discipline, and understanding. He said that Soviet troops will move "immediately" from villages and cities to "areas reserved for them" and that those in Prague have already begun to evacuate "some" areas and buildings in the city. It was Prague's aim, he said, to effect the complete withdrawal of the troops as early as possible. He also

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urged that no provocations take place. Dubcek also stated that it might be necessary to carry out some "temporary exceptional measures restricting...democracy and freedom of expression", a clear reference to some form of censorship. He also referred to some of the clandestine radio stations spreading "mistrust and doubts" concerning the Moscow agreement, and again warned against inflammatory words and actions.

4. Dubcek implied, in addition, that he might not recognize the results of the extraordinary 14th Party Congress, which met secretly on 22 August and elected a new loyalist Central Committee. He said he would hold discussions with the party workers at all levels concerning the party's work, and asked delegates to the congress to respect fully the party's work and the instructions he will issue.

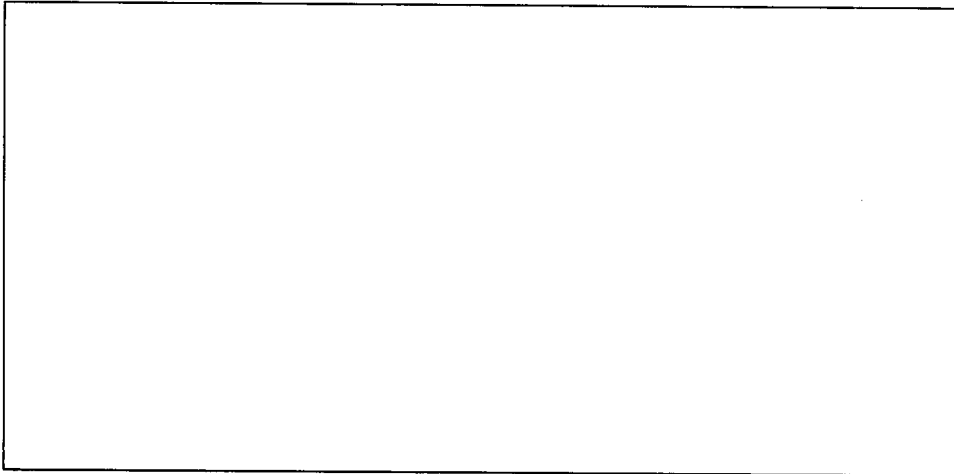
5. On the positive side, both Dubcek and Svoboda reendorsed the April plenum of the Czechoslovak party which ratified the party's reformist Action Program and brought a number of liberals into party and government offices. A reference to the April plenum was conspicuously missing from the Soviet-Czechoslovak communique which invoked only the January and May plenums. In this there is grounds for further contention between Prague and Moscow.

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6. The first observable reaction on the part of the Czechoslovak public to the Moscow agreement has been negative. Western news services report that several of the clandestine radio stations have called on the people to reject the agreement. One station, pointing out that the Czechoslovak leaders negotiated "under duress," called for a national referendum and the immediate withdrawal of troops. Reuters reported this afternoon that thousands of citizens in Prague began a march from Wenceslas Square to the National Assembly chanting "we want to know the whole truth." Representatives of the press, radio, and television in Prague, however, subsequently echoed Dubcek's call for calmness and circumspection.

7. The Soviets may be reinforcing their troops in southern East Germany and northwest Czechoslovakia with units drawn from the Baltic area of the USSR. There are



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