

FBIS 153

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Seen by Mr. Rostow

PRAGUE MEETING

PRAGUE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN CZECH (9505 KHZ) 1045 GMT 21 AUG 68 L

(TEXT) HERE IS A NEWS ITEM FROM PRAGUE: THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF PRAGUE IS MEETING THIS MORNING. IT HAS ISSUED A PROCLAMATION TO ALL PRAGUE INHABITANTS . IT (?SUPPORTS) THE ONLY LEGAL GOVERNMENT UNDER OLDRICH CERNIK AND ASSURES FULL SUPPORT TO THE PARTY LEADERSHIP UNDER ALEXANDER DUBCEK. THE COUNCIL IS NOW DISCUSSING HOW TO INSURE CALM AND FOOD SUPPLIES FOR PRAGUE .

THE OCCUPATION TROOPS HAVE OCCUPIED (WORD INDISTINCT) THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING, (WORDS INDISTINCT) THE CASTLE, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND MANY OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRIDGES, AND IMPORTANT LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS. CITY TRANSPORT IS COMPLETELY DISORGANIZED; THERE ARE NO STREETCARS AND SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY MILITARY VEHICLES (WORDS INDISTINCT).

AT A NUMBER OF PLACES SHOOTING HAS OCCURRED, PARTICULARLY IN FRONT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING ON THE OLD TOWN SQUARE AND (WORDS INDISTINCT).

THE CONFUSION OF THE SITUATION IS FURTHER INCREASED BY THE CONTINUED FLYING OF (?SOVIET) BOMBERS OVER PRAGUE.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST PARTY IS ALSO NOW MEETING. THE PARTY CHAIRMAN , MINISTER KUCERA, TOLD US ON THE TELEPHONE THAT THE PARTY PRESIDUM HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT TO ALL ITS MEMBERS, RECOGNIZING THE ONLY LEGAL GOVERNMENT UNDER OLDRICH CERNIK AND BACKING THE PROGRESSIVE (?FORCES) OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IT CALLS ON ALL ITS MEMBERS TO MAINTAIN CALM AND ORDER AND EXPRESSES ITS CONVICTION THAT THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE SOCIALIST CAMP AND THE WORLD WILL UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA , ITS UNDESERVED OCCUPATION, AND WILL HELP TOWARD REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON THIS CRITICAL SITUATION.

21 AUG 1506Z JRC/RG

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