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FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
CITE CAP 82200

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AUGUST 27, 1968

MR. PRESIDENT:

YOU HAVE HAD SEVERAL ASSESSMENTS THIS AFTERNOON OF THE MEANING OF THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT. I THINK YOU WILL BE INTERESTED IN THIS ASSESSMENT BY A CZECH LEADER WHO HAPPENED TO BE ON VACATION IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING THE EVENTS OF LAST WEEK.

USNATO 4405

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CONVERSATION WITH SIK

1. DANISH REP (DYVIG) REPORTED TO NAC AUGUST 27 FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF CZECH DEPUTY PRIMIN SIK TO DANISH AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE AUGUST 26 AFTER SIK HAD BEEN INFORMED OF SUBSTANCE OF MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE:

A. SOVIET LEADERS HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF POLITICAL BLACKMAIL BY EAST GERMANS AND POLES, WHO COMPLETELY MISINTERPRETED DIFFERENCES AMONG CZECH LEADERSHIP. BASED ON READINGS FROM CZECH PARTY CONGRESS AND BRATISLAVA AND CIERNA MEETINGS, GDR AND POLISH LEADERS HAD CONCLUDED THERE SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT AMONG CZECHS, AND CZECH QUISLINGS URGED SOVIETS TO INTERVENE ON ASSUMPTION CZECH GOVERNMENT WOULD FALL. INSTEAD, PRESSURE HAD EFFECT OF WELDING TOGETHER CZECH POLITICAL AND NATIONAL FORCES, AND SOVIET OCCUPATION FORCES TRIED IN VAIN TO FIND COLLABORATORS TO SERVE IN PUPPET REGIME.

B. EXTENT OF GENERAL RESISTANCE WAS INDICATED BY FACT THAT SOVIETS WERE FORCED TO USE GDR AND HUNGARIAN ANNOUNCERS ON RADIO STATIONS IN CZECH AND SLOVAK REGIONS AS REVEALED BY THEIR ACCENTS. SOME WOULD-BE COLLABORATORS WERE FORCED TO JOIN RESISTANCE.

C. FACT THAT SOVIET FORCES ARE REMAINING WOULD LEAD TO POPULAR EXPLOSION OF UNFORESEEABLE CONSEQUENCES.

D. ATTACK ON RUMANIA UNLIKELY, BUT COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED. SOVIETS COMMITTED GRAVE ERROR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHICH HOLDS RISK OF SIMILAR ERROR IN RUMANIA.
CLEVELAND

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