

~~SECRET~~

Received Washington CommGen
7:37 A.M. L. Friday 30 Aug 68

Received LBJ Ranch CommGen
7:12 A.M. CDT Friday 30 Aug 68

Relayed to Austin CommGen
7:15 A.M. CDT Friday 30 Aug 68

OO WTE15
DE WTE10 427AU
EEA422
OO WTE10 WTE15
DE WTE 3578

FROM WALT ROSTOW
TO THE PRESIDENT
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN
CITE CAP 82289

~~SECRET~~

HEREWITH CIA'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA
AS OF 6:30 A.M. EDT AUGUST 30, 1968

1. CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS WERE REPORTED BY AP TO BE GATHERING IN PRAGUE EARLIER TODAY FOR ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONGRESS. A SEPARATE PRESS SOURCE, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT DUBCEK INTENDS TO CALL A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY TO DISCUSS HOLDING THE CONGRESS EARLY NEXT MONTH, PROBABLY BEGINNING 9 SEPTEMBER. IN ADDITION, THE PARTY HAS ALSO SCHEDULED A MEETING OF CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES OF THE NATIONAL FRONT'S REGIONAL COMMITTEES FOR 3 SEPTEMBER IN PRAGUE.

2. DUBCEK HAS TOLD THE CZECHOSLOVAK NEWS AGENCY THAT GUARDING OF THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO REGULAR INTERIOR MINISTRY PERSONNEL. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE PRESIDUM, SECRETARIAT, AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD RESUMED WORK IN THE BUILDING.

3. THE CURFEW IN PRAGUE WAS LIFTED LAST NIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE INTERVENTION. SOVIET TANKS REMAINED OFF THE MAIN THOROUGHFARES, LINED UP ON SIDE STREETS. THE SOVIET GUARD, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM THE US EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH TROOPS STILL ENCIRCLED THE RADIO AND NEWSPAPER BUILDINGS, NORMAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RESTORED.

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By Sj NARA, Date 12/5/02

4. LITERARNI LISTY THE LIBERAL MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS' UNION AND LONG A BASTION OF DISSIDENT INTELLECTUALS, PUBLISHED ITS FINAL ISSUE THIS MORNING, DESPITE ITS WRECKED OFFICES, PREFERRING TO STOP PUBLICATION RATHER THAN BOW TO THE IMPOSITION OF CENSORSHIP. THE FINAL ISSUE FEATURED A CARTOON OF A SOVIET SOLDIER STANDING ON TOP OF A TANK AND HOLDING A MACHINE GUN. THE CAPTION READ: "WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE.....OR I SHOOT YOU!"

5. MOSCOW CONTINUES TO SHOW SENSITIVITY TO WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S PRAVDA TRIES -- INEFFECTIVELY -- TO DEPICT A GROUNDSWELL OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET INTERVENTION. ALTHOUGH CLAIMING WIDESPREAD BACKING WITHIN THE THIRD WORLD FOR THE INTERVENTION, PRAVDA WAS ABLE TO CITE ONLY THE POSITION OF IRAQ AND OF AN ARGENTINE TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION, ALONG WITH THE ABSTENTION OF INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND ALGERIA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE TO BACK UP ITS CASE.

6. WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHES IN BUDAPEST BELIEVE THAT ONLY ABOUT 2,000 - 2,500 HUNGARIAN TROOPS ARE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS ESTIMATE IS BASED ON THE OBSERVATION OF HUNGARIAN ARMY INSTALLATIONS, MOST OF WHICH APPEAR TO BE FULL. THE ATTACHES HAVE ALSO BEEN MAKING DAILY TOURS OF THE HUNGARIAN-RUMANIAN BORDER AND HAVE SEEN NOTHING TO SUPPORT RUMORS OF A SOVIET MILITARY BUILDUP IN THIS AREA.

DTG: 301137Z AUGUST 1968

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