

~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE

00 WTE15
DE WTE10 444A
EEA461
00 WTE10
DE WTE 3623

b

Received: Washington CommGen
5:23 PM EDT Saturday 31, AUG 1968

Received: LBJ Ranch CommGen
5:15 PM CDST Saturday 31, AUG 1968

Sent: Austin CommGen
5:25 PM CDST Saturday 31, AUG 1968

FROM WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
TO THE PRESIDENT
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN
CITE CAP82326

~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE

CIA'S REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN RUMANIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(AS OF 4:00 PM EDT, AUGUST 31, 1968)

1. THE US DEFENSE ATTACHE IN BUCHAREST CHARACTERIZED THE
ATMOSPHERE THIS MORNING AS A "PERIOD OF WATCHFUL WAITING".
RUMANIAN MILITARY OFFICIALS SAID LAST NIGHT THAT THEY
HAD NO HARD EVIDENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS IN BULGARIA OR
ANY UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF RUMANIA'S
BORDERS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST,
A FRENCH CORRESPONDENT WAS TOLD ON 30 AUGUST BY THE
RUMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THE CORRESPONDENT SHOULD
"STICK AROUND A FEW DAYS" BECAUSE AN IMPORTANT SOVIET
POLITICAL PERSONAGE WOULD BE COMING TO BUCHAREST. WE HAVE
NO INDICATIONS OF ANY SUCH IMPENDING VISIT.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS IN SIGINT SINCE THE
8:30 AM SITREP OF AN IMMINENT SOVIET MILITARY MOVE AGAINST
RUMANIA.

4. THERE IS NO SOLID INFORMATION CONCERNING TODAY'S
MEETING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CENTRAL COMMITTEE A
CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, INFORMED THE US EMBASSY
IN PRAGUE TODAY THAT THE COMMITTEE--WHICH IS THE PRE-
INTERVENTION COMMITTEE--WILL MAKE FEW PERSONNEL CHANGES
IN ITS OWN COMPOSITION. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THESE
PEOPLE ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BY THE 14TH
PARTY CONGRESS ARE ATTENDING, BUT ARE NOT BEING TREATED
AS CC MEMBERS.

COPY LBJ LIBRARY

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ 06-84

By *ial*, NARA, Date 7-31-06

5. THE OFFICIAL DID STATE THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL REMOVE KOLDER, BILAK, AND KRIEDEL FROM THE PARTY PRESIDUM, THE LATTER ON MOSCOW'S DIRECT COMMAND. HE DESCRIBED SEVERAL PROSPECTIVE PRESIDUM MEMBERS AS PROGRESSIVES. A RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA BROADCAST AT 1400 EDT CONFIRMED THAT INTERIOR MINISTER PAVEL "RESIGNED" AND HAS BEEN REPLACED BY JAN PELNAR, PREVIOUSLY CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST BOHEMIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE. PELNAR WAS SWORN IN THIS MORNING.

6. THE WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY REPORTED TODAY THAT, ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN BRANCH OF P.E.N., MANY PROMINENT CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BY SOVIET SECRET POLICE AND "DEPORTED." AMONG THOSE MENTIONED WERE THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION, GOLDSTUECKER AND PROCHAZKA, THE POET AND NOVELIST MNACHO, AND VARIOUS EDITORS OF THE WRITERS' JOURNAL, LITERARNI LISTY.

7. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] IN WESTERN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON 31 AUGUST, TWO "MILITARY HOUSES" HAD BEEN BURNED DOWN DURING THE NIGHT. THE SOVIET [REDACTED] SAID THAT THE FIRES WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ACTS OF "PROTEST AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION" AND THAT SOVIET PATROLS WOULD BE SENT TO POPULATED AREAS.

8. THERE ARE TENUOUS INDICATIONS THAT SOME SOVIET RESERVES ARE BEING CALLED UP. ON 30 AUGUST THE US MILITARY ATTACHE IN MOSCOW REPORTED SEEING A GROUP OF EIGHT CIVILIANS, ALL OF WHOM APPEARED TO BE OVER 30 YEARS OLD, WITH SUITCASES AND SUPERVISED BY SOVIET AIRFORCE AND ARMY OFFICERS. THE MEN APPEARED TO BE ENTERING ACTIVE DUTY. ANOTHER GROUP OF 18 MEN ALSO IN THE SAME AGE BRACKET APPEARED TO BE HAVING PRELIMINARY INTERVIEWS AND EXAMINATIONS PRIOR TO CALLUP. A CALLUP FOR MILITARY TRAINING NOW WOULD BE UNUSUAL, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN PREVIOUS CALLUPS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR TO HELP WITH THE HARVEST.

9. THE ONLY EAST EUROPEAN REACTION THUS FAR TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH LAST NIGHT IS A STATEMENT ON A BELGRADE RADIO DOMESTIC PROGRAM. THE BROADCAST NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS CONCERNING RUMORS THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND ADDED THAT WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS STATED THE PRESIDENT WAS REFERRING TO RUMANIA. THE YUGOSLAV STATION SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS HAVE NOT BEEN BROADCAST OR PUBLISHED IN RUMANIA.

DTG: 312123Z AUG 68

~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE

COPY LBJ LIBRARY