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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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Czechoslovakia: There were more anti-Soviet demonstrations in Prague yesterday.

Czechoslovak soldiers and police used force to attempt to break up crowds shouting anti-Russian slogans. The demonstrators included several thousand young people, students, workers, and office employees. The presence of white- and blue-collar workers is a sign of the unusual depth of the anti-Soviet feeling in Prague.

Some of the marchers were apparently demonstrating against their own leaders--including Dubcek--for participating in ceremonies on 6 and 7 November commemorating the anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution.

Early on 7 November there were manifestations of anti-Russian sentiment centering on the Esplanade Hotel, and the police exercised restraint in breaking them up. During the late afternoon and evening the situation deteriorated, especially near the party central committee building, and the police began using their clubs.

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The Soviets seem to have been expecting the disturbances. On 5 November [REDACTED] Soviet combat elements 15 kilometers from the city and near the best high-speed roads leading to downtown Prague. [REDACTED] some small Soviet units in the outskirts of the city where none had previously been stationed.

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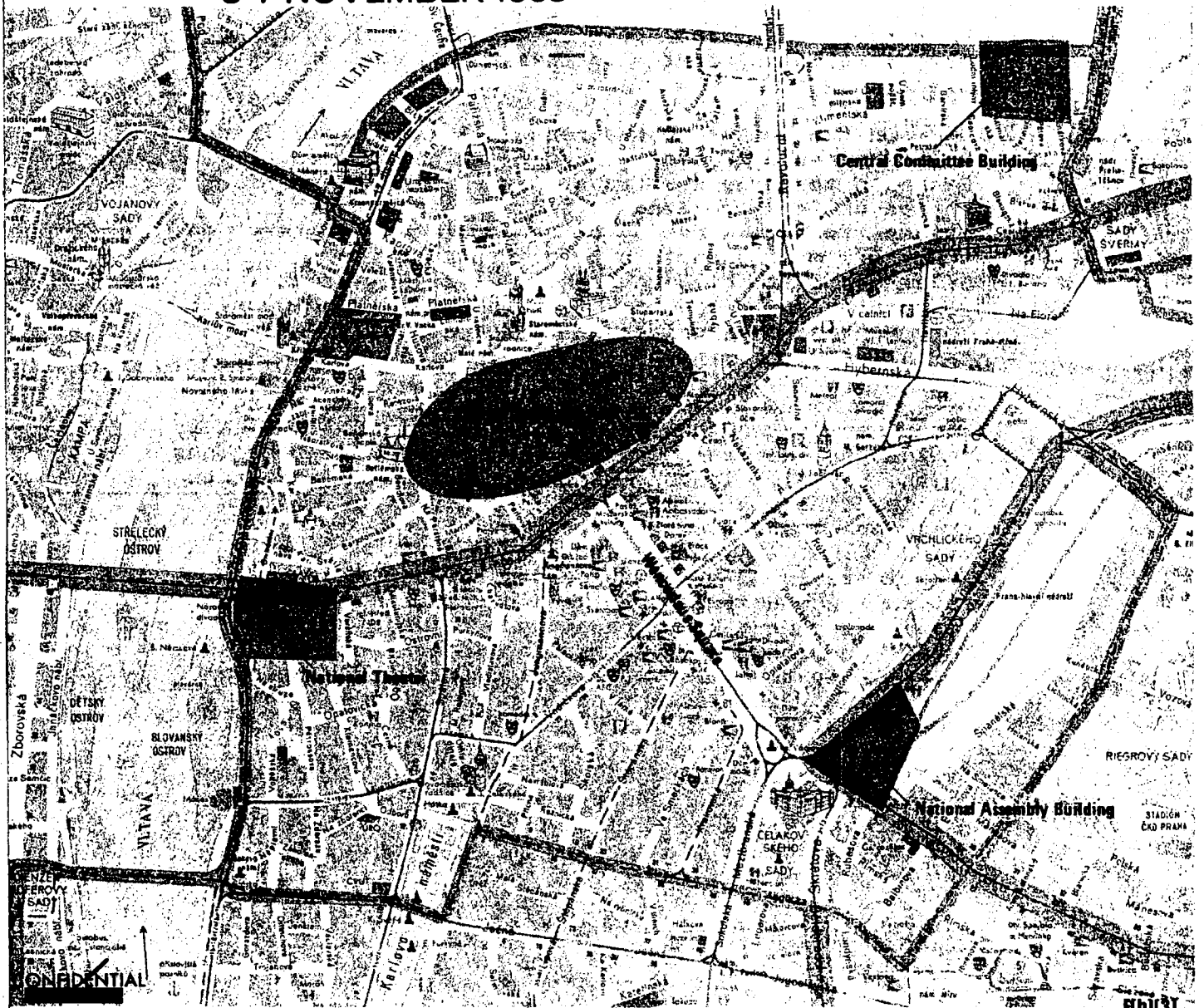
Moscow will undoubtedly consider the demonstrations a serious affront. The Soviets will see additional evidence that the Dubcek leadership is either unable or unwilling to live up to its promise to control anti-Soviet manifestations. The Soviets, however, probably intend to intervene with their troops only if the situation gets out of control of the Czechoslovak security forces.

There may be more demonstrations or even street clashes on 10 November, when pro-Soviet party conservatives plan to hold a public rally. (~~SECRET~~) (Map)]

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AREAS OF ANTI-SOVIET DEMONSTRATIONS IN DOWNTOWN PRAGUE 6-7 NOVEMBER 1968



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