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INFO CCO 00,SSO 00,NSCE 00,USIE 00,CIAE 00,DODE 00,GPM 04,H 02,INR 07,
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P R 241515Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9511
INFO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONGEN MUNICH
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. TONE OF CENTRAL PRESS AUG 24 REVEALS CERTAIN DISAPPOINTMENT ON
PART SOVIETS THAT ALL NOT GOING AS HOPED. EVEN FROM DISTORTED
VEILED SOVIET REPORTING OF EVENTS, IT INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS TO
READER THAT THIS OUTRIGHT INVASION WHICH CZECH PEOPLE NOT WEL-
COMING WITH OPEN ARMS.

2. FRONT PAGES ALL PAPERS AUG 24 FEATURE PICTURES SVOBODA ARRIVAL
YESTERDAY. SMILING BREZHNEV AND PODGORNYY, UNSMILING KOSYGIN AND
SVOBODA SHOWN IN OPEN CAR. ACCOMPANYING ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS ONLY
THAT TALKS BEGAN YESTERDAY IN "FRANK, COMRADELY ATMOSPHERE" AND

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WILL CONTINUE TODAY. FLAGS WERE DOWN ON AIRPORT ROUTE EARLY THIS MORNING, BUT HAVE NOW BEEN PUT UP AGAIN -- SUGGESTING THAT SVOBODA DOES EXPECT DEPART TODAY.

3. REST FRONT PAGE TAKEN UP WITH "APPEAL TO CITIZENS CZECHOSLOVAKIA" ISSUED YESTERDAY BY GOVERNMENTS FIVE OCCUPYING POWERS. IN OUR VIEW APPEAL HAS DEFINITE TONE CONCERN (WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU CZECHS, DON'T YOU KNOW WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU?). THINKING RUSSIAN READER SHOULD BE ABLE TO DISCERN THAT ALL NOT AS IT SHOULD BE OR AS ORIGINALLY EXPLAINED BY SOV AUTHORITIES.

4. TASS ANNOUNCEMENT ON FRONT PAGE AFTER MENTIONING ARRIVAL SVOBODA, GOES ON TO REPORT "SECRET SO-CALLED MEETING OF CZECH CP", WHICH, ACCORDING TO TASS HELD "WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE CC OR PARTY". ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO COMPLAINS OF CLANDESTINE RADIO STATIONS INSIDE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PLANS AIMED AT CONFUSING SITUATION -- CALLS FOR STRIKES, FOR HOSTILE DEMONSTRATIONS, ETC." SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, TASS SUGGESTS THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE IN COUNTRY BY ADMITTING THAT "UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE HEEDING THESE PROVOCATIVE CALLS, NOT REALIZING THAT SUCH ACTS WILL HARM THE CZECH PEOPLE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE."

. INTERIOR PAGES OF PRAVDA, AND MOST OTHER PAPERS, CONCENTRATE ON REPORTS OF MEETINGS WORKERS, PEASANTS, ETC. THROUGHOUT SOVIET UNION EXPRESSING APPROVAL OF INTERVENTION, AS WELL AS SUCH EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM ABROAD AS CAN BE MUSTERED.

6. LONG UNSIGNED ARTICLE BY "SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" ON PAGE 4 PRAVDA GOES INTO GREATER DETAIL ON SECRET CZECH PARTY MEETING MENTIONED IN TASS ANNOUNCEMENT (PP.4.) MEETING DISCREDITED AS PART AND PARCEL "ANTI-SOCIALIST" ACTIVITIES. ARTICLE NOTEWORTHY MAINLY FOR ITS LIST OF PLAYERS ON CZECH SCENE. SVESTKA, BILAK AND TRAVILI ARE DESCRIBED AS GOOD GUYS. CISAR, SHIK, GOLDSTUKER, SHIGLAN, KRIEGAL, SLAVIK, GUBL, GEIZLAR, PELIKAN, PAVEL, ELINEK, JAN PROHAZKA, GANZELKA, VORUVKA, "AND OTHERS" CAST IN ROLE OF VILLAINS. ONE MIGHT CONCLUDE FROM PREPONDERANCE OF "VILLAINS" IN CAST THAT THEY INDEED REPRESENT THE MAJORITY.
SWANK

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