

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

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CITE

DIST 6 AUGUST 1968

COUNTRY CZECHOSLOVAKIA/EAST GERMANY

DOI

SUBJECT CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIAL'S COMMENTS ON CZECHOSLOVAK-EAST
GERMAN RELATIONS

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FIELD NO.

1. THE DETERIORATED CZECHOSLOVAK-EAST GERMAN RELATIONS ARE
CHARACTERIZED BY A REPORT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ON A MEETING IN EAST GERMANY BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI
HAJEK, KOLAR AND MILOS PARIS, CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT I (USSR, POLAND
AND EAST GERMANY) OF THE FOREIGN MINISTR., AND AN EAST GERMAN GROUP
COMPRISING SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY (SED) FIRST SECRETARY WALTER ULBRICHT,
PREMIER WILLI STOPH, SED SECRETARY HERMANN AXEN, PETER FLORIN, EAST
GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR KEGEL.

COMMENT: THIS MEETING TOOK PLACE IN LATE JUNE.) THE

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Authority NW-RAC DDI-181-2-14
By isa, NARA, Date 6-27-03

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REPORT SAID THE DISCUSSIONS WERE POLEMICAL IN NATURE, ALTHOUGH SOME MODERATION RESULTED FROM THE FACT THAT BOTH PARTIES KNEW THEY HAD TO MAKE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN ACCEPTABLE RELATIONS AND COOPERATION.

2. ULBRICHT SPOKE VERY FORCEFULLY AND CONFIDENTLY. HE SAID HE DID NOT WORRY ABOUT ALL THE MEASURES TAKEN BY WEST GERMANY AGAINST EAST GERMANY AND THAT AT THE TIME WHEN BONN WAS RAILING AGAINST PANKOW FOR IMPOSING PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS ON WEST GERMAN TRAVELERS TO BERLIN HE CALMLY WENT TO THE COUNTRY FOR THREE DAYS TO TALK TO THE FARMERS. HE BOASTED ABOUT THE SED'S STRENGTH AND REFERRED TO THE COMPLETE APPROVAL GIVEN HIS CORRECT POLICIES. THE SED TOOK JUST THE RIGHT COURSE IN TIMING ITS COLLECTIVIZATION DRIVE, HAS PRESERVED ARTISTIC FREEDOM, ALLOWING EVERYTHING EXCEPT ABSTRACT ART, AND IS FULLY BACKED BY THE "CULTURAL WORKERS."

3. THE MEETING WAS TAKEN UP MOSTLY BY A MONOLOGUE BY ULBRICHT. HE REACTED VERY UNOBJECTIVELY TO REMARKS BY HAJEK TO THE EFFECT THAT REPORTS SUCH AS THOSE OF THE EAST GERMAN PRESS REFERRING TO ALLEGED AMERICAN TANKS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE HARMFUL TO MUTUAL RELATIONS. THE OTHER EAST GERMAN DELEGATES STRONGLY SUPPORTED ULBRICHT'S CRITICISMS AND PARTICULARLY ATTACKED EDUARD GOLDSTUECKER, A CHARLES UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, WHO ALLEGEDLY CRITICIZED EAST GERMANY WHILE

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VISITING WEST GERMANY. THEY DISTORTED GOLDSIECKER'S REMARKS, ACCORDING TO KOLAR'S REPORT, AND CRITICIZED CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT WESTERN NEWSPAPERMEN. POINTING TO EAST GERMANY'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW WESTERN JOURNALISTS EVEN TO ENTER INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES IN THAT COUNTRY. FORMAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND ON SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES ADOPTED DURING THE KARLOVY VARY AND BUCHAREST CONFERENCES. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THESE WERE MEETINGS CALLED TO PREPARE FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW.)

4. ULBRICHT SAID LIFE WAS MORE SIMPLE FOR THE EAST GERMANS SINCE THEY HAD NO MASARYK. ULBRICHT THEN LAUNCHED INTO A SHARP ATTACK ON WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT WHO, ACCORDING TO ULBRICHT, FOLLOWS PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S LINE. EAST GERMANY, ACCORDING TO ULBRICHT, KNOWS ALL ABOUT EGON BAHR'S SECRET NEGOTIATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND ULBRICHT WARNED THAT IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS TO TAKE UP CULTURAL CONTACTS WITH WEST GERMANY SINCE SHE IS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A FIFTH COLUMN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN ORDER TO SPLIT THE SOCIALIST CAMP. ULBRICHT OBVIOUSLY HAD IN MIND THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT TOURISTS, ACCORDING TO KOLAR'S REPORT.

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5. CZECHOSLOVAK-EAST GERMAN RELATIONS BECAME MORE STRAINED
DURING THE LAST WEEK OF JULY.

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6. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOW EXPECTS EAST GERMANY TO SEND ANOTHER
PROTEST NOTE CONCERNING A CARTOON IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS WHICH
SHOWED ULBRICHT STEPPING INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ALSO CONCERNING
CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS REPORTS CHARGING EAST GERMANY WITH SMUGGLING

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INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AN ARMS CACHE FOUND NEAR MOST. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: TASS ORIGINALLY REPORTED THE FINDING OF THE CACHE, SAID TO HAVE BEEN OF AMERICAN WEAPONS.)

7. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTRY INTENDS TO PROTEST TO EAST GERMANY BECAUSE OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, AND PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK ARTICLES BY AN EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERMAN, KRETSCHMANN, WHO, ACCORDING TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, HAD COOPERATED WITH THE NAZIS AND BELONGED TO NAZI ORGANIZATIONS. FURTHER EXCHANGES OF PROTESTS OF THIS ORDER CAN BE EXPECTED. A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS UPON THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTIES WHICH WILL TO A LARGE DEGREE AFFECT THE LINE TAKEN BY EAST GERMANY, POLAND AND BULGARIA AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HAJEK IS COUNTING ON A SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK UNDERSTANDING TO SOFTEN THE ATTITUDES OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES.

8. [REDACTED] DISSEM: NONE.

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