

~~SECRET~~

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CZECH TASK FORCE

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NJ 90-163

NARA. Date 10-2-90

Situation Report, 0600 hours EDT, August 22, 1968

1. Quisling Government About to be Formed?: Radio Prague has reported that according to "military circles of the Soviet occupation army" a new government is to be formed at the Soviet Embassy between 0900 and 1000 Prague time (0400 and 0500 EDT). Radio Prague earlier reported a meeting at the Soviet controlled Hotel Praha in Prague of some members of the Czechoslovak Party Central Committee, who reportedly called for cooperation with the invaders. For the first time the radio report named some of those allegedly favoring collaboration: Central Committee members Indra, Kolder, Barbirek, Jakes, and Bilak. (FBIS 46, 49; Prague 3074, 3079)
2. Security Council Meeting: The Security Council overrode by a 13-2 vote (USSR, Hungary) Soviet objections to the inscription of the Czech item. The Czech representative, saying he was there at the instructions of his Foreign Minister, asserted that the Soviet invasion did not have Czech concurrence. Ambassador Ball charged the USSR with armed aggression and pointed out that there was no evidence to support the Soviet contention that its action had been in response to official Czech requests. The UK, France, Canada, Denmark, and Paraguay joined the US in calling for a withdrawal of all Soviet forces. The Security Council meeting is scheduled to resume at 10:30 a.m. EDT August 22. Following consultations, the US, UK, Canada, Denmark, Paraguay, Brazil, France, and China have agreed ad referendum to a draft Security Council resolution condemning the armed intervention. A Soviet veto is considered certain. (USUN 6255, 6256)
3. Four Czech Officials Condemn Intervention. Four members of the Czech Government, including Deputy Premier Ota Sik and Foreign Minister Jiri Hayek, condemned from Yugoslavia the "brutal aggression" in Czechoslovakia and called for an immediate end to the occupation and for the release of the interned political leaders. The four said they would perform their duties "with full responsibility and with all forces even outside the territory of the republic." (FBIS 23)
4. Situation in Prague: Prague remains outwardly calm; there are no recent reports of fighting. In the early evening of August 21 Radio Prague broadcast an address by President Svoboda, who said that the invasion had taken place without Czech agreement but called on the people to stay calm. The Czech news agency CTK appears finally to have been occupied by Soviet troops, but Radio Prague is still broadcasting clandestinely and is still favoring the Dubcek forces. Radio Prague is requesting delegates to the Party Congress to hurry to Prague but to go to factories rather than the Soviet-held Hotel Praha (Prague 3074). Rude Pravo is also reportedly still pro-Dubcek, and is reportedly publishing an August 22 issue (Prague 3071). Repressive measures against the Dubcek forces appear to be increasing; the Prague City Party Committee announced

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-2-

via Radio Prague that Czech security and intelligence services, in cooperation with Soviet military police, are taking action against lawful Czech representatives (Prague 3078). Prime Minister Cernik is reported to have been forcibly abducted by the Soviets (Prague 3067). No new information is available on the whereabouts of Dubcek and the other leaders.

5. Pravda Attacks Dubcek by Name: A Pravda article August 22 attacks Dubcek by name for the first time, charging him with "perfidious, treacherous activities."

INR:WZimmerman:mf
8/22/68

~~SECRET~~