

SECRET/EXDIS

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ 77-104

19 May 1968

68a

Copy of PRAGUE 2140

By us, NARA Date 9-24-98

Henry Kissinger, who left for New York this morning after "Pugwash" meeting at Marienske Lazne, asked me to pass this message to you.

Kissinger had long talks with Czech Foreign Minister Hajek and with latter's confidential advisor Shejdarek, head of Czech International Institute for Political and Economic Affairs. Corroborating each, they told Kissinger the following.

They thought the North Vietnamese were ready to make a major advance if not a settlement this year in discussions with U. S. As they saw it, progress could be made along these lines:

Hanoi would be satisfied with minimum participation or representation of the Viet Cong in a South Vietnamese government, possibly through a change of name or outward character of the Viet Cong.

Hanoi recognized the result should not, repeat not, humiliate the U. S.

Hanoi might be brought to a cease-fire, either by agreement or of a de facto nature, more likely the latter.

Czech informants thought the situation more susceptible of movement than Korea, because of China's "different role."

Both Hajek and Shejdarek said Czechs would be willing to mediate, especially if U. S. desired to pass special proposals through their channels. Kissinger expressed view this unnecessary and inopportune at this time when both sides had begun direct contact. Czechs reserved further consideration of approach by means of message from Shejdarek asking Kissinger to return to Prague.

Kissinger found his Soviet colleague, Millionshikov, less optimistic about progress this year. Former said Soviets had no advance knowledge of Hanoi's April 3 message accepting direct negotiations with US. Kosygin in the dark and was informed in Teheran by special cable from Moscow.

Kissinger plans to visit Washington this coming Friday.

Copy of PRAGUE 2141

Emphasizing extremely sensitive nature of info, Communist Party representative on Soviet delegation to Marienske Lazne "Pugwash" meeting told Henry Kissinger the following:

On April 30 Soviet Foreign Minister and Soviet Defense Minister submitted a joint memo to Party Central Committee recommending talks with U. S.

~~SECRET~~/EXDIS

-2-

on ABM and strategic weapons question. Cleared draft of the communication on same subject to Doty Study Group in the U.S. was cancelled May 8.

Kissinger's informant thought initiation of Vietnam talks in Paris had a bearing on the problem and was unable to predict eventual decision.

BEAM