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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 July 1968

Information

~~INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM~~

Subject:

The Situation in Czechoslovakia as of 4 p.m. E.D.T.
(~~AS OF 4:00 P.M. EDT~~)

Speculation on the course and outcome of the talks is coming in from all sides, but none of it seems based on hard information. Both the Czechs and TASS today said only that the meeting was taking place in an atmosphere of "frankness and comradeship," a phrase which, according to Communist usage, signals tough talk but not total disagreement.

There is fragmentary evidence that some elements of the Czechoslovak armed forces may be on a limited alert. TASS announced late yesterday that the rear services exercise which began last week in the western USSR is now continuing in Poland and East Germany with the participation of rear services of the Polish and East German armies. ~~TASS said the exercise is now focused on the supply of troops with all kinds of transport.~~ The

Soviet troops

have crossed into Poland at several points along the USSR-Polish border.

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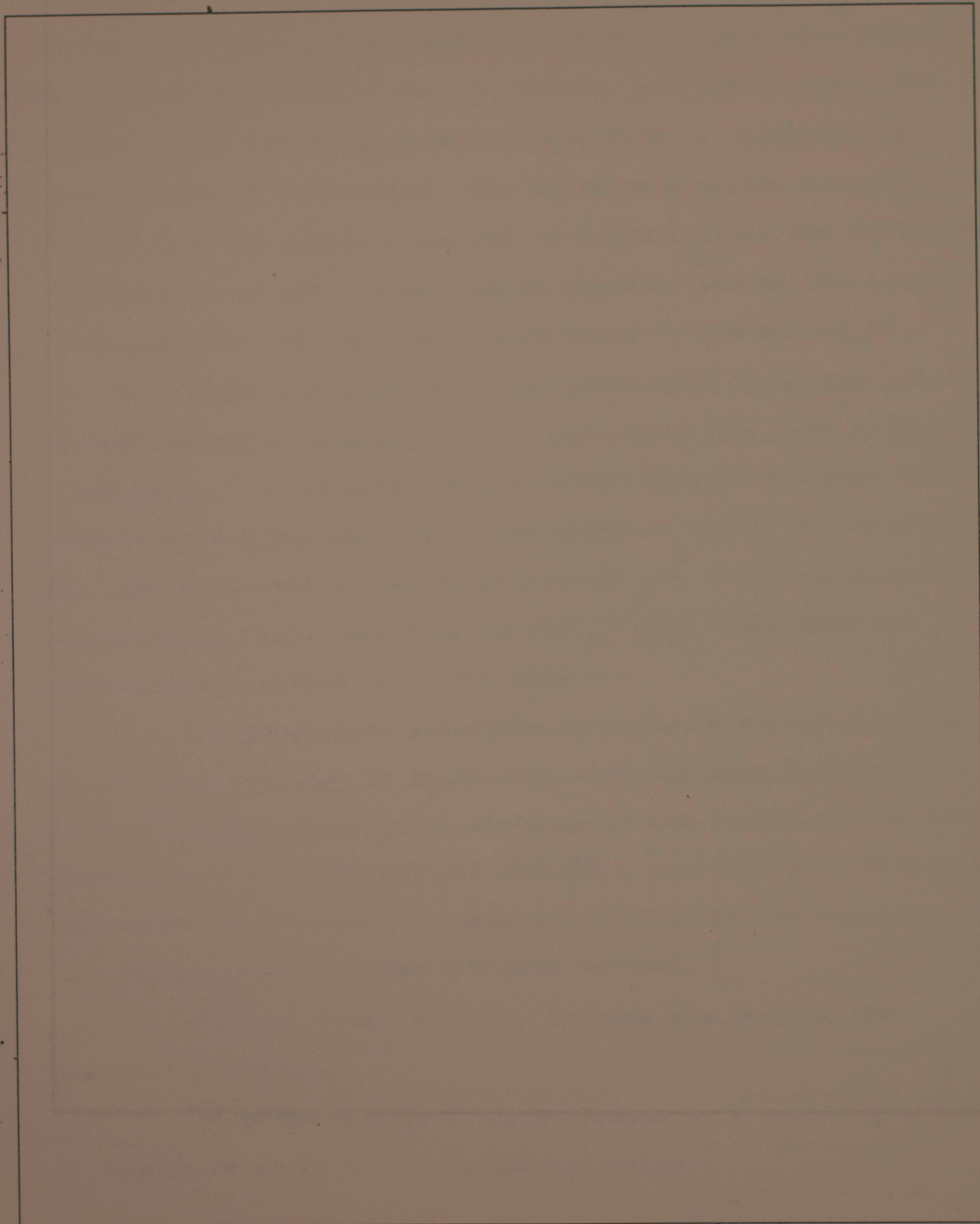
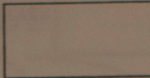
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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.8

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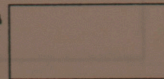
By Sj, NARA, Date 12-3-04

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~~HP~~ The Dubcek leadership appears to be taking steps to improve its negotiating position at Cierna. In a move which may be more significant for its timing than its content, the Czechoslovaks yesterday gave the appearance of restoring a limited form of censorship. The Interior Ministry issued a 35-page list of official secrets to chief editors and publishers. ~~The Ministry is still preparing an introduction to the list, which probably will contain instructions on how to use it.~~

9. ~~Prague nevertheless seems determined to defend itself against Moscow's "propagandistic, political, and even military pressure." In a warning aimed at other Eastern European countries, today's Rude Prave said that such pressure would "set a precedent for a revival of Stalinist methods for other socialist countries as well," and this in turn, would "undermine the international authority of the USSR."~~

10. ~~The propaganda reactions of Moscow's foremost allies in the area continue to be strong, although only East Germany is conducting a truly total campaign on all levels of the party organization. An SED central committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, presumably to discuss the results of the Cierna talks, if they are over by then.~~ []

~~HP~~ Italian Communist party leaders are keeping the pressure on Moscow, []

[] Tito is willing to go to Prague at a moment's notice if requested to do so by the Czechoslovaks. []

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[] in the event that Tito does visit Prague, he plans to stop on the way for talks with Kadar in Budapest.

12. Moscow is going to some lengths to suggest that it has popular support within Czechoslovakia for some of the Soviet demands probably being tabled at the Cerna meeting. Pravda today featured a letter from a group of Czechoslovak auto workers. The alleged letter condemned Czechoslovak public media for their anti-Soviet attitudes, and supported the presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia.

13. The Soviets also appear to be making efforts to maintain contact with Czechoslovak conservatives. The Czechoslovak daily Prace revealed yesterday that a meeting had been held recently between a Soviet General and a group of Czechoslovak army officers led by General Samuel Kodaj, chief of the political directorate of the Eastern Military District.

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