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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
8 October 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 4:00 P.M. EDT)

1. ~~Yesterday~~ ^{TODAY} Some Czechoslovak leaders may have returned to Moscow for further discussions on the new commitments Dubcek made to the Soviets last week.
2. A VIP-associated IL-18--which is used by President Svoboda--left Prague for Moscow in the early afternoon. This second trip may reflect dissonance among Czechoslovak leaders during a presidium meeting held this morning. President Svoboda, who did not go to Moscow with the Dubcek delegation, and other Czechoslovak officials may be making one last attempt to convince Moscow to water down the new demands it has imposed, or face a new crisis.
3. In addition, a Czechoslovak party central committee plenum, believed to have been scheduled for this week to approve the most recent Moscow agreement, will probably be postponed until those who went to Moscow return home.
4. Soviet special emissary Kuznetsov has apparently returned to Prague--probably to preside over the implementation

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By Sj, NARA, Date 12-3-04

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of Soviet demands. High-level personnel changes in the party and government may be among them. Prior to the presidium meeting [REDACTED] the US Embassy, however, had discounted recurrent rumors of Dubcek's impending resignation.

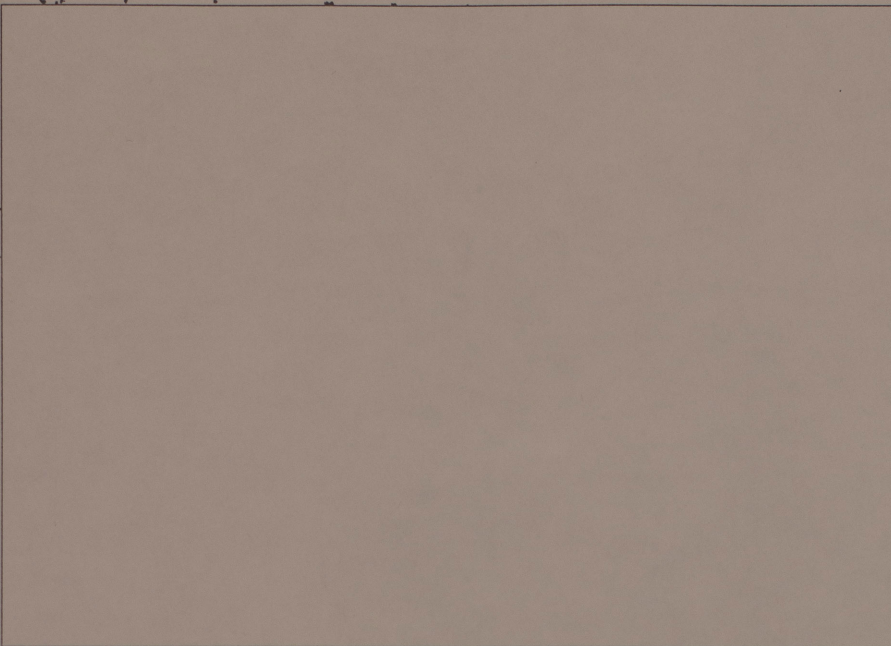
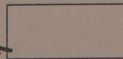
5. Slovak party chief Husak, who went to Moscow with Dubcek last week, reported today to his party presidium. After approving the report, the presidium took immediate steps to impose new controls on Slovak information media. The new party directive orders an increase in the amount of time and space devoted to propaganda and to political indoctrination in the press, radio and television.

6. The Soviet ambassador in Prague met with the Czechoslovak Minister of Justice on 7 October, possibly to discuss the termination of another phase of Dubcek's liberalization program--the rehabilitation of former political prisoners. The USSR will surely want to prevent the reopening of any more trials that would again expose Moscow's role in the bloody purges of the late 1940's and early 1950's and its involvement in Czechoslovak "show trials" until the early 1960's.

7. There are indications that one of the four Polish divisions that occupied north central Czechoslovakia may have returned to Poland. [REDACTED]

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