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SSO ACSI DA
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SANITIZED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ / RAC 99-206
By Sj, NARA Date 7-31-01

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN DISSEM SECTION ONE OF TWO
CITE [REDACTED]
COUNTRY: [REDACTED]
DOI: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: SITREP AS OF 1500 HOURS LOCAL TIME

3.4(b)(1)

ACQ: [REDACTED]
SOURCE: [REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1)

1. [REDACTED] REPORTED SHORTLY BEFORE 1200 HOURS ON A ONE-WAY TRANSMISSION LINE AS FOLLOWS. THE SITUATION LOOKS SOMEWHAT IMPROVED. MANY STORES ARE OPEN, STREETCARS ARE RUNNING, AND AN OCCASIONAL TRAFFIC POLICEMAN CAN BE SEEN. THE LINES IN FRONT OF FOOD STORES ARE SMALLER, BUT IN FRONT OF ELECTRICAL SUPPLY STORES CROWDS ARE INCREASING. EVERYONE NEEDS BATTERIES FOR TRANSISTOR RADIOS. DURING THE NIGHT MANY PEOPLE ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. SPECIAL TARGETS FOR ARREST ARE JOURNALISTS AND INTELLECTUALS. THE AREA SURROUNDING PANCRAZ, WHERE THE LARGE PRISON IS LOCATED, IS TIGHTLY BLOCKED OFF BY SOVIET TROOPS. THE OCCUPATION FORCE TROOPS WANT TO LIQUIDATE SECRET TRANSMITTERS AND NEWSPAPER OFFICES. PEOPLE IN PRAGUE ARE SAYING THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT A COLLABORATIONIST AGREEMENT IN MOSCOW AND THE WALLS OF PRAGUE IN LARGE LETTERS SHOW THE NAMES OF SEVERAL CZECH DELEGATES IN MOSCOW AS TRAITORS. MORE SOLDIERS OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES ARE REPORTEDLY COMING INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THERE ARE MANY DISTURBANCES ON CZECH RAILROADS USED BY THE OCCUPYING POWERS. ALLEGEDLY A TRAIN CONTAINING DIRECTION FINDING EQUIPMENT, BADLY NEEDED BY THE OCCUPYING POWERS TO LOCATE SECRET RADIO STATIONS, DISAPPEARED. NEAR THE CITY OF OLOMOUC RAILROAD TRACKS ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN TORN UP.

2. SOVIET TROOPS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE CENTER OF BRATISLAVA AND ARE CONCENTRATING PRINCIPALLY ALONG THE DANUBE AND NEAR THE DANUBE BRIDGES.

3. FREE PRAGUE RADIO STATION DESCRIBED DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR SALKOVICH (PHONETIC) AS A TRAITOR WHO KNEW THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS GOING TO BE OCCUPIED AND HAD SUPPORTED THE SOVIETS. HE IS SAID TO BE LEADING MOSCOW-ORIENTED MEMBERS OF THE CZECH STATE SECURITY SERVICE, ALTHOUGH ACTUAL ARRESTS ARE MADE BY SOVIET SECRET POLICE.

4. AUSTRIANS RE-ESTABLISHED TWO TELEX LINES TO PRAGUE DURING THE NIGHT 23/24 AUGUST. BRNO AND BRATISLAVA ARE COMPLETELY CUT OFF. TELEX LINES TO EAST GERMANY REMAIN INTERRUPTED. TELEX LINES TO PRAGUE HAVE BEEN REROUTED VIA FRANKFURT. THE SOVIET UNION CAN BE REACHED FROM VIENNA VIA BUDAPEST.

[REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1)

5. THE SOVIET DECISION TO INTERVENE IN THE CSSR WAS BASED LARGELY ON ASSURANCES BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR CERVONENK IN PRAGUE THAT HE COULD QUICKLY FORM A NEW CZECH GOVERNMENT. KOSYGIN OPPOSED MILITARY INTERVENTION AND BREZHNEV VACILLATED BUT THEY WERE OVERRULED BY THE HARD-LINE FACTION HEADED BY SUSLOV. ALTHOUGH A MILITARY ATTACK ON RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA IS UNLIKELY, IT CANNOT BE ENTIRELY DISCOUNTED BECAUSE OF THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY SOVIET ACTIONS AGAINST THE CSSR. [REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

6. BEFORE THE SOVIET INTERVENTION THE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE CZECH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ELECTED ITS DELEGATION TO THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE CZECH CP. THE DELEGATION WAS SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED NOT TO NOMINATE FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK AS A CANDIDATE TO THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE BECAUSE, FOLLOWING DUBCEK'S RISE TO POWER, HAJEK HAD ARGUED AGAINST REPLACING THE NOVOTNY GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN MINISTER VACLAV DAVID. IT IS PROBABLE THAT HAJEK WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPORT THE SOVIET INTERVENTION HOPING TO REMAIN AS FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER WHATEVER GOVERNMENT THE SOVIETS FORM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.4(b)(1)