



Department of State

*E. G. v.*  
**TELEGRAM**

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02112 211815Z

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INFO SS 25, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, USIA 12, NSA 02,  
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FM USMISSION BERLIN  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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SUBJECT: GDR STATEMENT ON CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION

1. IN ADDITION TO TASS STATEMENT ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF AUGUST 21 ALSO FRONT-PAGED A STATEMENT TO "ALL CITIZENS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" ON BEHALF OF THE SED CC, THE STATE COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. IT WAS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN THE TASS STATEMENT, SETTING OUT ADDITIONAL EAST GERMAN JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE ACTION TAKEN.

2. BEYOND REFLECTING THE TASS STATEMENT, THE GDR VERSION SAID THAT THE EAST GERMAN PEOPLE WERE RELIEVED AFTER THE BRATISLAVA MEETING BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD BE DEFEATED AND BECAUSE THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION HAD PLEDGED TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE CSSR PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION, LEGALLY BAN ANTI-SOCIALIST PARTIES, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS AND FOLLOW THE "CORRECT" COURSE IN ITS POLICY.

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# TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 BERLIN 02112 211815Z

3. "UNFORTUNATELY," THE STATEMENT SAID, A GROUP IN THE CSCP PRESIDUM LED BY A. DUBCEK "HAD NOT FULFILLED ITS PLEDGE AND HAD STRENGTHENED ITS COURSE TO THE RIGHT. THIS GROUP KEPT THE BRATISLAVA AGREEMENTS SECRET FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY AND THE POPULATION. IT HYPOCRITICALLY ENDORSED THE AGREEMENTS IN PUBLIC BUT AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWED ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE REALIZATION OF THE BRATISLAVA DECLARATION." DURING THE KARLOVY VARY TALKS THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION REFUSED STUBBORNLY TO IMPLEMENT THE BRATISLAVA AGREEMENTS.

4. AFTER REHASHING ITS CRITICISM OF THE SITUATION WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE EAST GERMAN STATEMENT SET FORTH A JUSTIFICATION FOR THE INTERVENTION IN MILITARY TERMS. "A LOOK AT THE MAP WILL MAKE EVERY CITIZEN OF THE GDR UNDERSTAND THAT, FOR OUR REPUBLIC AND FOR THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AN UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION WOULD BE CREATED IF ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES, ESPECIALLY THOSE INSPIRED BY WEST GERMAN IMPERIALISM, HAD BEEN ABLE TO CARRY ON THEIR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY FROM THE SOUTH -- THAT IS ON OUR FLANK."

5. FOLLOWING FURTHER RATIONALIZATION, THE STATEMENT SAID "THE WORKERS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC LOVE THE INDUSTRIOUS AND EFFICIENT PEOPLE OF BOHEMIA AND SLOVAKIA"... "THE PEOPLE OF THE CSSR HAVE NOT DESERVED TO BE PUT IN SUCH A DANGER BY UNPRINCIPLED POLITICIANS"... "WE OFFER OUR FRATERNAL HAND TO THE TRUE SOCIALIST FORCES, THE WORKING CLASS, THE FARMERS, THE PROGRESSIVE INTELLIGENTSIA AND ALL WORKERS OF NEIGHBORING CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

6. COMMENT: SICKENING AS IT IS, THE STATEMENT DOES REVEAL MORE THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN ABOUT WHAT WENT ON AT BRATISLAVA AND KARLOVY VARY, AT LEAST FROM THE EAST GERMAN VIEWPOINT. IT WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY ARROGANT, GOING BEYOND TASS IN CONDEMNING DUBCEK PERSONALLY AND IN ACCUSING HIM IN EFFECT OF LYING.

7. THE REFERENCE TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION MAKES PLAIN WHAT THE GDR'S CONCERNS ARE MILITARILY AND ALSO IN THE SENSE OF ALLEGED POSSIBILITIES FOR IDEOLOGICAL PENETRATION OF THE GDR.

DECON 8/21/69 MORRIS

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