

From Brumley, Smith  
To The President

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
~~Directorate of Intelligence~~  
28 August 1968

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~~INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM~~

CIA Report on

~~The Situation in Czechoslovakia as of~~ 4:30 EDT  
(As of 1830 EDT)

1. Premier Cernik this afternoon added his voice to those of other Czechoslovak leaders calling for calm, patience and circumspection while Soviet troops depart "gradually and in several phases." Cernik added that the individual phases of the "complete" departure must still be made concrete, and "will be discussed by the proper government channels." ~~This statement lends credence to a Yugoslav news agency report that a summit meeting of Moscow and its allies will be held in Dresden within ten or fifteen days.~~

2. Like the other Czechoslovak leaders, Cernik also stated in effect that there will be censorship of the news media because of the "extraordinary situation."

3. Cernik emphasized that there should be no provocations, and earlier in the day, Josef Smrkovsky, chairman of the National Assembly, begged youths and students not to demonstrate in Prague this afternoon. Smrkovsky reportedly said the "consequences would be unimaginable," and advised

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 97-211

By 5, NARA, Date 12-3-04



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the students to "give no one a pretext for designs which could end tragically."

8. Western press services report that Prague was quiet today. Its citizens apparently are accepting the situation with resignation. A Radio Czechoslovakia broadcast today compared the Moscow agreement unfavorably with that of Munich, but concluded that there was nothing to do but accept the Moscow "ultimatum."

9. Foreign Minister Hajek stopped in Belgrade today, ostensibly to pick up his family, and reportedly will return to Prague. ~~Western press services speculate that Hajek will meet with Tito.~~

10. There is some evidence that Soviet forces are being used to crack down on Czechoslovak liberals despite the pledges in the Moscow communique not to interfere in internal affairs. Moscow's attention seems especially drawn to the "free" radio stations which played an important role during the first week of the occupation. [redacted]

~~early this morning indicates that at least in one case Soviet forces took over a free radio station, arrested the people there, and cut the station's power. Several stations have stopped calling themselves "free" possibly as a signal that their output is now under central control. [redacted]~~

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6. A Soviet poetess, Natalia Gorbanevskaya, has sent a letter to Rude Pravo and a number of Western newspapers, describing a 25 August demonstration in Moscow against the occupation of Czechoslovakia. She says the demonstration was designed to inform the Czechoslovaks that not all Soviet citizens approve of the action taken in their name by the Soviet government. The demonstrators, sitting in Red Square near the exit from which the Czechoslovak delegation was to depart the Kremlin that evening, were displaying placards supporting Czechoslovakia's cause when they were set upon suddenly by a squad of secret police who shouted, "They are all Jews! beat the anti-Soviets!" and enthusiastically roughed up unresisting demonstrators.

7. The New York Times correspondent in Moscow has also informed the Embassy that he has heard of a 10-13 man group in Leningrad who circulated a petition supporting the Czechoslovak reform and who are charged with "anti-Soviet agitation." He has also heard that "something similar happened in Gorky" but has been unable to supply details.

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10. There is no new evidence bearing on possible Soviet military moves against Rumania or the Bulgarian aircraft movements this morning. A West German government spokesman, however, told newsmen in Bonn that joint East Bloc maneuvers are impending in Rumania. The spokesman said the West German government would not consider Warsaw Pact exercises in Rumania normal maneuvers.

11. The Bulgarian armed forces are mounting what could be a large-scale command post exercise in the area near the Rumanian frontier, according to the US Defense Attache in Sofia. The attache reported seeing no combat vehicles and no Soviet troops in the area during a 27 August trip.

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