

September 4, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WALT W. ROSTOW
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Authorization for Assistance to Czechoslovak Refugees

The underlying memorandum from the Secretary of State, and the attached proposed statement by the President and proposed memorandum from the President to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State are for the purpose of a response by the United States Government to the plight of refugees from Czechoslovakia following the Soviet occupation.

The proposed admission of Czechoslovak refugees into the United States, by the exercise of the Attorney-General's parole authority and the proposed \$20,000,000 increase in the Migration and Refugee Assistance Appropriation are considered appropriate actions in the foreign policy interests of the United States in behalf of the people of Czechoslovakia, to whom other forms of American assistance are not available.

These proposed actions should elicit broad domestic support from the constituencies of voluntary agencies and organizations interested in refugees and immigration and from minority and nationality groups, many of which are already active in promoting assistance to Czechoslovak refugees. It is also believed that there would be wide support for these actions in Congress and among the American public which has shown great sympathy for the Czechoslovak people and can be expected to welcome positive U.S. action in their behalf.

John P. Walsh
Acting Executive Secretary