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OCI #0757/78

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
30 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1130 EDT)

1. Reuters reported this morning that Premier Cernik privately informed a group of government officials that Soviet military commanders had threatened--presumably while the Moscow parley was in progress--to take over the country "with brutal force if necessary." Cernik is said also to have stated that the Soviets have compiled a list of people, numbering in the thousands, to be arrested and taken from the country. Cernik allegedly advised the government officials to urge "the best brains" of Czechoslovakia to leave the country while they could.

2. AP has reported that clandestine radio stations in Czechoslovakia ceased broadcasting today. FBIS, however, was still monitoring some stations, including at least one still calling itself "Radio Czechoslovakia as of 0800 EDT this morning. Soviet pressure, direct or indirect, however, is causing the press to exercise restraint. In Brno, Mlada Fronta, the press organ of the youth organization,

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLJ/RAC 99-208

CONFIDENTIAL By Sj, NARA Date 7-501

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appeared today with two columns blank, suggesting censorship has been imposed. Svoboda (Freedom), the party's paper in Bohemia, today reported that it is "introducing self-discipline because of the realities of the situation, which is so absurd." In addition, the heads of Czechoslovak television and radio have gone "on vacation." Both men reportedly were on a Soviet black-list.

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