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EO 12958 3.3(b)(6)>25Yrs
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
29 August 1968

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1130 EDT)

1. Litorarni Listy, the journal of Czechoslovak writers, this morning published an inflammatory article denouncing the Soviet led occupation, the leaders of the five occupying powers, and the Moscow agreement. The article, written by Jan Prochazka, a long-time target of Soviet critics, termed the Soviet actions "Cossack diplomacy" and called on the Czechoslovak people not to accept the Moscow "compromise". It also appealed to "intellectuals of the world" to boycott every action of the occupiers. The sensational article at the least will be cited by Moscow as evidence that "counter-revolutionaries" are still abroad in Prague, and is certain to lead to demands that the journal and its editors be suppressed. Moscow may demand even more, and the article may force Dubcek to crack down on the press media harder and quicker than he might have wished.

2. Clandestine radio stations in Czechoslovakia gradually are going off the air, either voluntarily or as

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 99-211

By SJ, NARA, Date 12-3-04

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a result of Soviet pressures. A station in North Slovakia reluctantly transmitted a farewell this morning, stating that the regular Slovak stations have now resumed operations, albeit under "very difficult conditions"--a possible reference to direct Soviet interference or Czechoslovak censors. Another station in South Moravia was silenced last night, and a Soviet-originated broadcast apparently used its frequency. Another station labelling itself the "Workers Voice of the Republic"--doubtless Soviet-controlled--attacked the loyalists stations this morning as being in the hands of reactionaries and revisionists.

3. Czechoslovakia's borders with Austria and the GDR are apparently still open to returning Czechoslovaks. Borders with Hungary are open except at two points. [redacted]

[redacted] CSSR checkpoints along the Austrian border were still being manned by Czechoslovak guards as of today. The Russians, however, have set up their own posts about 100 meters inside the border, and have consistently turned back non-Czechoslovak vehicles allowed to enter by the CSSR border guards. AP reports today that East German occupation forces have sealed off a zone several miles deep south of the Czechoslovak-East German border. They are preventing all Czechoslovak trucks from entering this zone. The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry has instructed its posts in Western Europe to urge Czechoslovak citizens to return home, but to grant exit

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documents on demand. Individual refugee cases are to be recorded but not reported. [redacted]

5. The Soviets may be moving ground units into Hungary from the western USSR. [redacted] observed Soviet artillery pieces guarded by Soviet troops on a train in eastern Hungary. If the sighting is valid it is possible that these elements are from the Carpathian Military District and are intended as replacements for Soviet units that have deployed to Czechoslovakia.

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[redacted]

6. Czechoslovak citizens continue to be told to keep their distance from occupying forces. Today's edition of the Czechoslovak party paper Rude Pravo carries an interview with Defense Minister Dzur who warns against small provocations which might set off huge conflagrations, according to Radio Czechoslovakia. The Defense Minister reportedly states that he has issued no new orders to the armed forces "especially since the five Warsaw Pact powers stopped attempting to disarm Czechoslovak units."

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