

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DAVIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

HCE349

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03935 161709Z

40
ACTION EUR 20

RECEIVED
WHCA

INFO IO 13, CIAE 00, NSAE 00, NSCE 00, SSO 00, ^{1968 OCT 06} USIA 00, GPN 70442 02, INR 07,
L 03, NSC 10, P 04, SS 25, SP 02, SAH 02, SAL 01, SA 01, ACDA 16, NIC 01,
RSR 01, RSC 01, CCO 00, /113 W

124497

P 161540Z OCT 68
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5335
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
DIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY

Reston
E

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 3935

SUBJ: KOSYGIN ARRIVES TO SIGN TREATY

1. SOVIET DELEGATION INCLUDING KOSYGIN, GROMYKO, GRECHKO AND KUZNETSOV ARRIVED PRAGUE AIRPORT 1500 LOCAL TIME ON INVITATION CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT. MET BY SMRKOVSKY, CERNIK, KUSAK, MLYNAR, SPACEK AND STROUGAL. ACCORDING TO BRITISH AIR ATTACHE WHO WITNESSED ARRIVAL, DELEGATION WAS ALSO MET BY FIFTEEN SOVIET GENERALS AND TWO CZECH GENERALS (LT. GEN EVZEN CHLAD AND, HE BELIEVED, GENERAL ROSOV). ARRIVAL CEREMONY INCLUDED CZECH HONOR GUARD AND BAND WHICH PLAYED SOVIET NAT-

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 03935 161709Z

IONAL ANTHEM. SECURITY SEEMED SOMEWHAT RELAXED.

2. PRESUMPTION THAT KOSYGIN CAME TO SIGN TROOP STATIONING TREATY CONFIRMED BY RADIO NEWS WHICH STATED SIGNING WOULD TAKE PLACE THIS EVENING.

3. WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS TELL US THAT AFTER KOSYGIN AND COMPANY ARRIVED AT GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE THEY WERE VISITED BRIEFLY BY CERNIK AND POSSIBLY DUBCEK. ACCORDING RADIO, DUBCEK IS IN TOWNN HAVING RECEIVED SLOVAK GROUP THIS MORNING.

4. IT IT TURNS OUT THAT KOSYGIN HAS IN FACT COME MERELY TO SIGN TREATY AND NOT TO APPLY PRESSURE ON CZECHS TO ACCEPT UNPALATABLE TERMS, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE SOVIET CONCESSION TO CZECHS. SOVIETS CAN OF COURSE AFFORD SUCH GESTURE SINCE TREATY LEGALIZING PRESENCE OF TROOPS HERE IS MOSTLY TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.
BEAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE