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SITUATION REPORT 0900 HOURS EDT, OCTOBER 12, 1968

1. DUBCEK SPEECH OCTOBER 11. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE CZECH LEADERS RETURNED FROM MOSCOW OCTOBER 4, DUBCEK EMPHASIZED THAT NO OPPOSITION COULD BE ALLOWED IN THE COUNTRY, AND THAT THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES WOULD BE THE SUPREMACY OF THE PARTY AND THE ALLIANCE WITH THE USSR, WHILE PRESERVING THE ESSENTIALS OF THE JANUARY-MAY PERIOD. HE ALSO BLAMED THE CZECH LEADERSHIP IN PART FOR THE AUGUST "EVENTS" BY REMARKING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS "TOO SLOW" IN TAKING VARIOUS TIGHTENING MEASURES WHICH WERE IN TRAIN OR INTENDED IN JULY. THE SPEECH MAY BE AN EFFORT TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE SIGNING OF A SOVIET-CZECH UNDERSTANDING ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF MOST OF THE OCCUPYING FORCES, RUMORED TO BE SCHEDULED FOR THIS COMING WEEK. (FBIS 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 27, 31)

2. MOSCOW PUBLICIZES CZECH "OLD COMMUNISTS" RESOLUTION. CONTINUING THE POLEMIC WITH PRAGUE, MOSCOW RADIO OCTOBER 11 RAN THE TEXT OF A RESOLUTION PURPORTEDLY ADOPTED BY A GATHERING OCTOBER 9 IN PRAGUE OF 600 "OLD COMMUNISTS" DEMANDING THAT THE CZECH CP STOP THE SPREAD IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF FALSE STORIES ABOUT THE OCCUPATION AND AGAINST THE USSR. THE RESOLUTION DEMANDED THAT THE PARTY PUBLICLY DECLARE ITS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE SOVIET UNION, AND IT INCLUDED A REQUEST THAT THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION BE PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA. (REPORTS OF WORKER PETITIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DEMANDING THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPYING FORCES AND OPPOSING ANY STATIONING OF SOVIET FORCES IN THE COUNTRY CONTINUE TO CIRCULATE IN PRAGUE AND MAY BE MAKING THE SOVIETS UNEASY.) (FBIS 46, 49-53)

3. CZECH-SOVIET EXPERTS CONFERRING IN MOSCOW RE OCCUPATION. ACCORDING TO A CZECH EMBASSY SOURCE IN MOSCOW, THERE IS A LARGE DELEGATION THERE OF EXPERTS WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE STATIONING OF SOVIET FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. PRAGUE SOURCES CONFIRM THIS, AND SAY THE DELEGATION IS HEADED BY DEPUTY PREMIER HAMOUZ AND INCLUDES DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PUDLAK AND CHIEF OF STAFF RUSOV (VICE DEFENSE MINISTER DZUR, WHOSE ILLNESS AND HOSPITALIZATION HAVE NOW BEEN OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED IN PRAGUE). AFP MOSCOW STATES THE DELEGATION ARRIVED OCTOBER 8, INCLUDES HAMOUZ AS HEAD, AND SENT AN "IMPORTANT MEMBER" BACK TO PRAGUE OCTOBER 11, APPARENTLY TO CLEAR THE TENTATIVELY AGREED TEXT. VARIOUS PRESS REPORTS ADD THAT CERNIK WILL GO TO MOSCOW THIS WEEKEND OR THIS COMING WEEK TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. (FBIS 42; PRAGUE 3867; MOSCOW 5956)

4. POLISH-SOVIET MILITARY VISITS. POLISH CHIEF OF STAFF HOCHA WENT TO MOSCOW, AND GRECHKO, WARSAW PACT COMMANDER YAKUBOVSKIY, AND SEVERAL OTHER TOP SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS WENT TO WARSAW, OSTENSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY (OCTOBER 11-12) OF A POLISH BATTLE. PRAVDA OCTOBER 11 RAN A NOTATION OF THE CRITICISM OF THE CZECH CP IN GOMULKA'S OCTOBER 8 SPEECH AT KATOWICE, AND TODAY, IN WHAY MAY BE AN UNRELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE POLISH PRESS RAN THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH, HAVING PRINTED ONLY EXCERPTS BEFORE. GOMULKA WARNED THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA MIGHT TAKE "A BAD TURN" UNLESS THE CZECH LEADERS REANALYZED THEIR PAST POLICIES AND REVEALED ITS ERRORS. (FBIS 38; REUTERS; WARSAW 4825)

5. FURTHER REFERENCES TO THE 90 PERCENT FIGURE RE WITHDRAWAL. THE WIRE SERVICES CITE "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" IN MOSCOW AND AT THE UN AS SAYING THAT THE NEW SOVIET-CZECH AGREEMENT ON THE STATIONING OF SOVIET FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL PROVIDE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF 90 PERCENT OF THE SOVIET TROOPS THERE NOW PLUS ALL THE NON-SOVIET TROOPS, WITH THE WITHDRAWALS TO TAKE PLACE "SOON" OR "WITHIN TWO WEEKS." A CZECH OFFICIAL HAS ALSO REPEATED THIS VERSION TO US. (BELGRADE 4651; REUTERS, UPI 153, AP 226).

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