

RECEIVED WASHINGTON COMMCENTER
7:38 A.M. 25 AUGUST 1968

RECEIVED LBJ RANCH COMMCENTER
7:35 A.M. CDT 25 AUGUST 1968

RELAYED AUSTIN COMMCENTER
7:37 A.M. CDT 25 AUGUST 1968

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4

NLJ 90-163

By ing NARA, Date 10-2-90

FROM WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
TO THE PRESIDENT
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN
CITE CAP82128

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SUBJECT: STATE DEPARTMENT'S SITUATION REPORT ON
CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR AUGUST 25, 1968

MOSCOW TALKS: TALKS BETWEEN THE SOVIET LEADERS AND THE CZECH DELEGATION LED BY CZECH PRESIDENT SVOBODA HAVE ENTERED THEIR THIRD DAY WITH UNCERTAIN PROSPECTS. DUBCEK, CERNIK, AND SMRKOVSKY WERE TO PARTICIPATE TODAY, ACCORDING TO THE CLANDESTINE RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA; DUBCEK IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE STATED DURING A PHONE CALL FROM MOSCOW YESTERDAY, THAT HE WOULD RETURN HOME TODAY. YESTERDAY, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNT, THE CZECHS SECURED SOVIET AGREEMENT TO RESTORE POWER TO THE CZECH LEADERSHIP, POSSIBLY INCLUDING DUBCEK. RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIETS ASKED TO STATION ABOUT 500,000 TROOPS INDEFINITELY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA; SVOBODA REFUSED.

CONFERENCE OF THE FIVE?: ACCORDING TO TWO REPORTS, LEADERS OF THE FIVE WILL ASSEMBLE TODAY IN MOSCOW. A SOVIET SPOKESMAN TOLD REUTERS HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

CZECHOSLOVAK SOLIDARITY: THE SLOVAK CENTRAL COMMITTEE YESTERDAY EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR THE CZECH GOVERNMENT (PRESUMABLY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY), WHICH WAS ALSO CONTACTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY THE OCCUPATION COMMANDER IN PRAGUE -- ACCORDING TO CONTINUING CLANDESTINE BROADCASTS. THE LATTER HAVE BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY DISPATCHES FROM AN UNDERGROUND CTK WIRE SERVICE. IN ADDITION, A RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE "RADIO SVOBODA" (RADIO FREEDOM) WAS REPORTEDLY HEARD BRIEFLY EARLY TODAY BY WESTERN LISTENERS IN MOSCOW, CUTTING INTO A BBC BROADCAST.

THE OCCUPATION: RADIO PRAGUE REPORTS FATALITIES OCCURRED LAST NIGHT IN PRAGUE WHEN OCCUPYING TROOPS FIRED ON VEHICLES FROM 10:00 PM ON, APPARENTLY BELIEVING THEY WERE DELIVERING ARMS. SEPARATE STATEMENTS OF THE CZECH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY PRESIDIUUM, CARRIED OVER THE FREE RADIO, DENY THAT THEY WERE. THE GOVERNMENT MESSAGE ALSO PROTESTS AGAINST OVERNIGHT SEARCHES OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS BY OCCUPYING FORCES; THE PRESIDIUUM STATEMENT URGES CAUTION ON BOTH THE CITIZENRY AND THE OCCUPIERS, WHO ARE REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO EXHIBIT ARMS THEY HAVE SEIZED. OTHER CLANDESTINE BROADCASTS STATE THAT LAST NIGHT ABOUT 180 TANKS MOVED FROM SLOVAKIA TO MORAVIA, ARMORED FORCES IN BRATISLAVA WERE INCREASED AND MORE TROOPS ARRIVED IN PRAGUE -- APPARENTLY BY AIRLIFT. THE REPORTED PRAGUE ARRIVALS, HOWEVER, MAY BE REPLACEMENTS FOR TROOPS SAID TO BE DEMORALIZED.

SOVIET COMMENT TOUGH: PRAVADA'S EDITORIAL TODAY CLAIMS THAT "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES, EGGED ON BY THE IMPERIALIST WEST, ARE BECOMING MORE ARROGANT", PERPETRATING "DIRECT SUBVERSION AND ACTS OF TERRORISM." REFERENCES TO THE IMPORTANCE OF INDOCTRINATION OF SOVIET SOLDIERS AND TO A "TENSE" IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE SUGGEST THAT THE LATTER MAY BE UNDER SUBSTANTIAL STRAIN. YESTERDAY MOSCOW DOMESTIC RADIO TOLD ITS LISTENERS THAT FOUR SOVIET SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN PRAGUE.

GDR REACTION: ACCORDING TO RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND AFP REPORT FROM RETURNING TRAVELERS, THERE HAVE BEEN PRO-DUBCEK DEMONSTRATIONS IN EAST GERMANY.

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