SECRET-SENSITIVE

Thursday, August 22, 1968
8:35 p.m.

Mr. President:

This is another obscure suggestion that the Czech military forces may take some kind of action.

Rostow

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NIK/RAC 99-214
By 3/1/85, NARA, Date 3/1/85

SECRET-SENSITIVE
TO SD E O E T T TINE VHN 2616 B/W SUPPLEMENT NR ONE TO EUCOM SITREP NR FIVE.

SECTION ONE OF TWO

1. GENERAL

In Czechoslovakia, reports have indicated that Svojoda, Dubcek, and other government leaders are prisoners of the occupation forces, and that members of the central committee who have aligned themselves with Moscow are meeting at the Soviet Embassy in Prague to form a new government. No mention has been made of former Czech leader Novotny and his possible return to power since yesterday.

Four leading members of the Czech government, including Vice Premier Ota Sik and Foreign Minister Jiri Hajek, were vacationing in Yugoslavia at the time of the invasion and have remained there. The four officials have issued a statement condemning the aggression and demanding an immediate withdrawal of the occupation forces.

Press reports estimate that approximately 50,000 Czech tourists in Yugoslavia are awaiting developments before returning to their homeland.

Meanwhile, approximately 30-40 personnel of the Soviet trade mission in West Germany have reportedly left the country.

In a speech during a mass rally in Bucharest, as reported by the Austrian Radio, Romanian President and Party Chief Ceausescu strongly condemned the armed invasion of Czechoslovakia and announced that Romania is "now in a state of full mobilization."
Earlier, Ceausescu had announced the formation of special "workers brigades" and had stated that Romania would not permit the "violation of the Fatherland by anyone."

2. Ground Forces

Pact forces are well-emplaced in Czechoslovakia, reportedly occupying some Czech casernes and setting up bivouacs. Estimated occupation troop strength in Prague is at least 30,000, including major elements of at least one Soviet ABN division, one Soviet motorized rifle division and one tank division. East German, Polish and Bulgarian troop units, at least in token strength, are also in Prague.

All vehicular traffic over the Vltava River has been halted and exits from the city appear to have been sealed. Prague Radio announced that Lt General Velicka, "Commander of Occupying Forces for Prague and the Middle Czech Area" had imposed a curfew.

In effect from midnight until 0500 hours.

Czechoslovak armed forces apparently have offered no organized resistance to the occupiers, in line with the direction of the government at the beginning of the occupation. Unconfirmed reports indicate a degree of Czech passivity with soldiers remaining at their posts or following the direction of the Soviets. Resistance offered has come from students and irregulars.

The present disposition of Soviet forces in Western Czechoslovakia:

Twentieth Guards Army elements are located west of Prague up to the Czech-FRG border. In Prague and immediately to the east, elements of the First Guards Tank Army are deployed. Reports indicate that further to the east Polish troops are in Pardubice, an unidentified Bulgarian regiment is moving northeast of Kosice and elements from the Soviet Carpathian Military District are in Eastern Slovakia.

NNNH

[Signature]
ONLY BATTALION AND REGIMENTAL SIZED UNITS OF THE OTHER SOVIET PACT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OCCUPATION.

A WESTERN PRESS PHOTO INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF SOME SOVIET SPECIAL FORCES IN PRAGUE. THE UNIFORM, BERET AND STRIPED T-SHIRT WORN BY ONE INDIVIDUAL IN THE FOREGROUND OF THE PHOTOGRAPH APPEAR TO BE IDENTICAL WITH THAT DISPLAYED BY SPECIAL FORCES UNITS IN MOSCOW PARADES.

3. BORDERS
CZECH BORDER CROSSING POINTS ARE OPEN TO SOME EXTENT.
NO WESTERNERS ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER EXCEPT DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. CZECH PERSONNEL, PROPERLY AUTHORIZED ARE PERMITTED TO CROSS. NO SIZEABLE EXODUS OF REFUGEES HAS BEEN REPORTED AS YET.

4. AIR FORCES
THE AIR SCENARIO FOR THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS BEGINNING TO CLARIFY.
THE FIRST PHASE OF THE INVASION CONSISTED OF OVER 200 TRANSPORT SORTIES SUPPORTED BY SOVIET AIRCRAFT CONDUCTING INTENSIVE ACTIVE JAMMING AND CHAFF DROPS.
IT APPEARS THE INITIAL OBJECTIVE OF THE EARLY WAVES OF TRANSPORTS WAS TO CONDUCT PARA DROPS AND/OR LANDINGS OF ABN TROOPS ON CZECH ACFIELDS, BEGINNING AROUND 20/2400Z.
A RELIABLE OBSERVER IN PRAGUE STATED THAT BY 21/
0340Z 325 AN-12 SORTIES HAD ENTERED AIRPORTS AROUND THE
CITY. AFTER 0800 ON THE 21ST, AN-12 FLIGHTS INTO
PRAGUE EVIDENTLY TAPERED OFF.

THE SECOND PHASE OF AIR OPERATIONS BEGAN IN THE
EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 21 AUGUST AND WAS CHARACTERIZED
BY INTENSIVE AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SUCH AS TROOP SPOTTING,
AIR DEFENSE COVER AND RECONNAISSANCE. THE TACTICAL
AIRCRAFT PERFORMING THESE MISSIONS OPERATED FROM SOUTHERN
BASES IN EAST GERMANY AND POLAND. WHILE NO ESTIMATE OF
THE TOTAL INVOLVED IN THIS PHASE IS POSSIBLE IT APPEARS
THAT AT LEAST 165 SOVIET AIRCRAFT FROM EAST GERMANY
ALONE WERE ENGAGED IN THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH CONTINUES.

THE THIRD PHASE OF AIR activity appears to have
begun around 1100 hours on the 21st and involves
the deployment of soviet fighters and fighter bombers
from bases in east germany and poland into the
captured czech airfields. THE FIRM NUMBERS OF
soviet tactical aircraft that have arrived in
CZECHOSLOVAKIA is not known. We estimate that a full
regiment has occupied ZATEC and estimated soviet
aircraft at MILOVICE AND CASLAV AIRFIELDS RISE TO 80
by 1900 hours on the 21st of August.

Despite the relative lack of information concerning
soviet fighter and fighter bomber deployments to
CZECHOSLOVAKIA it is likely that, at least,
the estimated 450 soviet combat tactical aircraft
which deployed to southern germany and poland in
July either have or will move to CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

At the present time there appears to be a relative
lull in air activity over CZECHOSLOVAKIA; however,
reconnaissance and transport resupply flights continue.

With the possible exception of BRNO airfield, there is
no indication of CZECHOSLOVAKIAN air force armed
resistance to the occupation of their air bases; however,
it is evident that passive resistance is being employed.