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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
1 August 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 1:00 P.M EDT)

1. The meeting at Cierna has wound up with only a slight relaxation of the Soviet pressure on Czechoslovakia, and the Czechoslovaks must now, with little respite, face up to another gathering of the Soviets and their Eastern European allies beginning Saturday.
2. The communique from Cierna indicates that major issues remain unresolved. It says merely that the participants exchanged detailed information on the situation in their countries in an atmosphere of "complete frankness, sincerity, and mutual understanding," a phraseology which does not indicate much agreement. Nevertheless, the reference to "mutual understanding" implies that the two sides have drawn back somewhat from their confrontation.
3. The Czechoslovaks have backed down from their previous demand that a multilateral meeting with the five who were at Warsaw (Bulgaria, East Germany, Poland, Hungary and the USSR) on 14-15 July be held only after

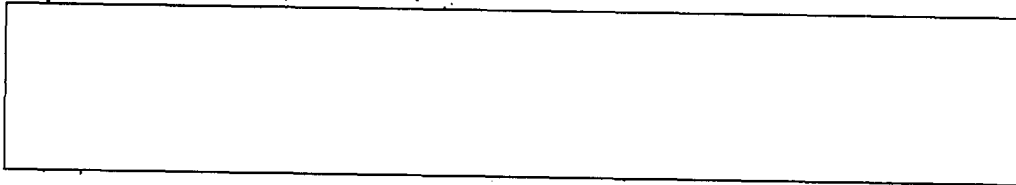
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separate consultations were held with each of the parties. The Soviets and the others have conceded only that the meeting should be held in Bratislava, on Czechoslovak territory. Czechoslovakia's Eastern European supporters, Rumania and Yugoslavia, will be absent.

4. Czechoslovak President Svoboda, who participated in the talks at Cierna, will give a report to the people at 2:00 PM EDT today.

5. There has been no letup in Soviet military pressure.



6. The report from the US Defense Attache Office in Prague of the sighting on 30 July of a division-size convoy moving through Slovakia has been revised. It is now believed that the convoy was not moving in a southwesterly direction. The US Embassy in Prague confirms, however, the presence in Slovakia of "powerful Soviet military muscle" and suggests that these elements "could constitute de facto stationing of Soviet forces here for an indefinite period regardless of the wishes of the Czechoslovak government."

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