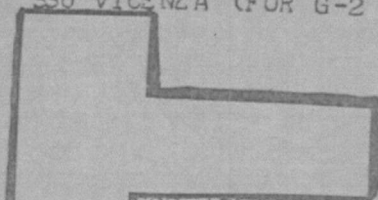


SSO ARLINGTON HALL STATION (FOR DIAAP-1)
SSO BERLIN
SSO BRUSSELS
SSO CARLISLE BKS/DACE
SSO CINCPAC
SSO CONAD
SSO FRANKFURT
SSO FT RICHIE/AFOC/ANMCC
SSO ISMIR
SSO LONDON
SSO MOEHRINGEN
SSO NAPLES
SSO NECPA
SSO PANAMA
SSO VICENZA (FOR G-2 SETAF)



3.3(b)(3)

FOR ARLO
FOR JRRU
SUSLO LONDON

CAS FRANKFURT
SSO BONN
ZEM

~~SECRET~~ SAVIN-VHN 2850. SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK
STATUS REPORT, 6 SEP 68.

SECTION ONE OF TWO
CZECHOSLOVAK STATUS REPORT

1. GENERAL

THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA APPEARS TO BE STABILIZING, WITH FURTHER EVIDENCE OF WITHDRAWAL BY SOME WARSAW PACT FORCES AND OF PERMANENT OCCUPATION PLANS BY OTHERS. THE CZECHOSLOVAK REGIME HAS AUTHORIZED LOCAL OFFICIALS TO DEAL DIRECT WITH OCCUPATION COMMANDERS TO REESTABLISH NORMAL CONDITIONS, AND THE SLOVAK REGIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS NAMED TWO OFFICIALS, ONE A CAREER POLITICAL OFFICER, TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PACT COMMAND.

MOST SIGNS IN DOWNTOWN PRAGUE WHICH WERE DEEMED OBJECTIONABLE BY THE SOVIETS ARE GONE. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS A SOVIET REQUIREMENT FOR A TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CITY, LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF ARMOR AND TROOPS REMAIN IN DOWNTOWN PARKS.

2. GROUND FORCES

SOME OCCUPYING FORCES MAY BE AIRLIFTED BACK TO HOME GARRISONS. SINCE 4 SEPTEMBER, SOVIET TROOPS -- AIRBORNE AND INFANTRY -- HAVE BEEN MUSTERING AT RUZYNE AIRPORT, WITH AN ESTIMATED DIVISION LEVEL OF 7,500 TROOPS THERE ON THE 5TH. OVER 800 TENTS HAVE BEEN ERECTED AT THE AIRPORT, AND "TONS AND TONS" OF FUEL HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM FOL TRUCKS TO 20,000-GALLON TANKS. THE TROOPS HAVE ENGAGED IN SMALL-UNIT TRAINING. WITH SOME 10 AN-12/CUBS ALSO APPARENTLY CONDUCTING

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POSSIBLE TRAINING FLIGHTS. THE TROOP BUILDUP AND THE LARGE-SCALE FUEL STORAGE TRANSFERS POINT TO AN IMPENDING AIRLIFT OPERATION POSSIBLY INVOLVING THE RETURN OF THE SOVIET 31ST GUARDS AIRBORNE RIFLE DIVISION TO HOME BASES IN THE BALTIC MILITARY DISTRICT. SUCH AN AIRLIFT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE ARRIVAL OF MANY OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES IN SOVIET MILITARY TRANSPORTS, INCLUDING THE BULGARIAN AIRBORNE ELEMENTS WHO HAVE BEEN RECENTLY CONTROLLING THE RUZYNE AIRPORT.

OTHER SIGNS OF WITHDRAWAL INCLUDE AN INDICATED ARRIVAL IN EAST GERMANY OF ADVANCE ECHELONS OF THE GSFG 20TH GUARDS ARMY'S 6TH AND 19TH MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISIONS. EAST GERMAN ARMY ELEMENTS HAVE ALSO APPARENTLY RETURNED. ON 4 SEPTEMBER, MEMBERS OF THE E.G. ARMY, PROBABLY FROM THE 4TH MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION, REPORTEDLY HAD WRITTEN THAT THEIR UNIT WAS NOW OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT THAT THEY WOULD NOT RETURN HOME TO ERFURT UNTIL CHRISTMAS. IF TRUE, THIS INDICATES THAT AT LEAST SOME EAST GERMAN TROOPS WILL REMAIN DEPLOYED ALONG THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER FOR SEVERAL MORE MONTHS. OTHER INDICATED DEPARTURES INCLUDE ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTHERN GROUP OF FORCES RETURNING TO HUNGARY AND OF HUNGARIAN ARMY UNITS GOING HOME. ACCORDING TO A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS RECENTLY TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HUNGARIAN TROOPS WOULD PROBABLY BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE THE SOVIET AND THAT, EVENTUALLY, THE ONLY TROOPS STATIONED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD BE SOVIET. ADDITIONAL REPORTS CONCERNING DEPENDENTS AND DEPENDENTS' HOUSING PROVIDE CONTINUING EVIDENCE THAT THE LATTER ARE PREPARING FOR A LASTING OCCUPATION. LOCAL CITIZENS IN ZATEC REPORTEDLY ARE CONCERNED OVER THE NECESSITY TO FIND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR 60 SENIOR SOVIET OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN CHEB, SOVIET OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY ARE FORCING OCCUPANTS TO MOVE OUT OF APARTMENTS NEAR THE RAILROAD STATION TO MAKE ROOM FOR DEPENDENTS. SIMILAR ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN NOTED IN OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY.

3.3(6)(1)(3)

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