

SECRET

NOTES

Czechoslovakia: Yesterday's suicide-by-fire in Prague's Wenceslaus Square was said to be in protest against political retrogression that has followed the occupation. The act obviously was committed for dramatic effect on the anniversary of the 1948 Communist coup in Czechoslovakia. Although this suicide is not likely to generate widespread public disturbances or precipitate a political crisis as did the Palach affair in mid-January, it might hurt Dubcek's efforts to curb the conservative extremists. Czechoslovak security forces probably will be alerted, but the population has been more or less inured to such incidents by over 30 self-immolation attempts.

25X1

* * * *

26 Feb 69

Central Intelligence Bulletin

11

SECRET