

17 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
SUBJECT : Intelligence Memorandum: "Effect
of the Czech Crisis on Soviet
Military Capabilities in Europe"

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

1. This Intelligence Memorandum is the result of an extensive analytical effort to provide a more finely tuned assessment of the effect of the events surrounding the Czech crisis on present Soviet capabilities for military initiatives in Europe.

2. We conclude that the Soviet Union's capability for military initiatives in the Central European Region is probably less at this point than it was before the Czechoslovak crisis. The decline has come about through the loss of Czechoslovakia's armed forces as a compliant and capable adjunct to Kremlin strategy, and the failure of the Soviets so far to compensate for this loss.

3. In the July-September 1968 period, the Soviets had enhanced their military posture in the Central European region through extensive mobilization of reduced-strength divisions and forward deployment. This gain has proved to be temporary and has been largely dissipated by demobilization of troops and vehicles called up prior to the intervention, and by the return home of the bulk of the intervention force.

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4. The Memorandum has been closely coordinated with [REDACTED] in OCI and [REDACTED] and the SMT Staff in ONE.

5. I propose a standard distribution inside and outside the Agency, plus a selective distribution to individuals on the National Security Council Staff, in State, and in the Department of Defense. I also recommend release [REDACTED]

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BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.

Director

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Strategic Research

Attachment: a/s [REDACTED]

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