



**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
10 May 1968**

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
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The Situation in Czechoslovakia
(As of 10:A.M. EDT)

1. [redacted]

[redacted] there have been some troop movements, probably Soviet, in East Germany in the Czechoslovak border area.

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2. [redacted]

[redacted] in southern East Germany, Erich Honecker, number two man in the East German party, indicated that troop movements have been taking place in that area.

3. The number of troops involved, however, is possibly small, [redacted]

[redacted] the populace has not yet noticed the movements. Moreover, no temporary restricted areas, usually set up to screen large-scale maneuvers or troop movements have been imposed.

4. Honecker ordered several district first secretaries to send people to Czechoslovakia to advise Czechoslovak Communist party members of the East German party's support for them, and to point out the dangers inherent in present

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developments. Honecker reportedly stated that one must want to see when the Czechoslovak Communist Party is going to proclaim a "struggle to put down the counter-revolutionary forces" in the CSSR. Honecker's latter remarks are similar to those expressed in the Polish party's main daily, Trybuna Ludu, on 8 May.

5. In Prague the Czechoslovaks are continuing to enjoy their three day holiday and there were no observable signs of public panic or alarm. No unusual military activity has been detected in Czechoslovakia.

6. Moscow has as yet said not a word about the now widespread reports that some of its forces have been deployed toward Czechoslovakia. It seems clear--no matter how many denials may come later--that the Soviets intend the reports and rumors to have their effect in Prague. In the light of these developments, there seems little doubt that the meeting in Moscow on Wednesday between the Soviet, Polish, East German, Hungarian and Bulgarian leaders was the signal for the launching of this war of nerves against the Czechoslovaks. The propaganda play during the last couple of days suggests, however, that the Hungarians and perhaps the Bulgarians were less willing to lend themselves to such a tactic than the others.

7. Moscow's behavior so far seems more consistent with

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such a psychological warfare plan than with an intention to move Soviet forces onto Czechoslovakia territory. If this latter were intended, we would have expected Soviet propaganda to have sounded a rising note of alarm or to have begun to prepare a Warsaw Pact cover for intervention.

8.

9. The French government clearly is not treating the situation as critical while Bonn as of late last night was still analyzing the situation.

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