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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 18, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

Attached are additional Questions
and Answers on the Korean incident and
on the situation in Czechoslovakia.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

KOREAN SITUATION

Question: Why was the reconnaissance aircraft not escorted?

Answer: We have been flying hundreds of similar missions every year in this area. It was our judgment that the restrictions placed on the conduct of this mission made armed escort unnecessary. (Alternative addition: Those who are attacking the failure to provide armed escorts for these types of flights would be the first to question the provocative nature of the flights had escorts been provided.)

KOREAN SITUATION

Question: Are you contemplating other measures?

Answer: The attack on unarmed American ships or planes is unacceptable. We are continuing our study of what can best be done to prevent a recurrence. If other measures are thought necessary, they will be announced.

Question: What do you think of Czechoslovakia?

Answer: We have witnessed the last act of a great tragedy.

We can only hope on human grounds that the Czechoslovak people
can retain some of their freedoms.

Question: Were the Soviets warned?

Answer: We have expressed our concern to the Soviets on several occasions emphasizing that the use of force would have unfortunate consequences for U.S. /Soviet relations.