

INCOMING CIPHER MESSAGE

FEB 13

16:36

TO: 

NYC 35 13 FEB 70
TO WALTER INFO COOK
FROM KAUFMANN INFO SCHNEIDER PETZALL
949 AM

ENDRST REPORTS:

FEBRUARY 13, 1970

JIRI MLADEK, THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, HAS APPARENTLY DEFECTED TO THE UNITED STATES.

AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO KNOW WOULD NOT CONFIRM THE RUMOR OF MLADEK'S DEFECTION. BUT THE OFFICIAL TOLD ENDRST THAT HE WOULD "NOT BE VERY SURPRISED" IF IT TURNED OUT TO BE CORRECT.

THE THIRD-RANKING CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMAT AT THE UNITED NATIONS WAS TO HAVE LEFT THE U.S. FOR REASSIGNMENT IN PRAGUE BY FEBRUARY 15. ACCORDING NON-DIPLOMATIC CZECHOSLOVAK SOURCES AT THE U.N., MLADEK HAS BEEN MISSING BOTH FROM HIS POST AND FROM HIS HOME IN MANHATTAN FOR THE PAST WEEK. MLADEK'S FAMILY IS WITH HIM IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT THE COMMERCIAL MOVERS ON ASSIGNMENT FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION WERE NOT ADMITTED EARLIER THIS WEEK INTO THE MLADEK APARTMENT BY THE APARTMENT HOUSE JANITOR, WHO SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO LET ANYONE IN. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHO LEFT THOSE INSTRUCTIONS.

MLADEK HAS BEEN KNOWN TO HAVE CONFIDED IN FRIENDS, IN SOME CASES OTHER THAN CZECHOSLOVAKS, ABOUT HIS PERSONAL UNHAPPINESS OVER THE TURN OF EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SINCE THE SOVIET-LED INVASION IN 1968.

IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT HE WAS RECENTLY CALLED BEFORE A MEETING OF FELLOW CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CP IN NEW YORK AT WHICH HE WAS CRITICIZED FOR HIS "INADEQUATE PERFORMANCE" AT HIS U.N. JOB. HIS WORK WAS EVALUATED IN IDEOLOGICAL TERMS AND FOUND TO BE LACKING IN OPEN SUPPORT FOR THE STABILIZATION PROCESS IN POST-INVASION CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

MEANWHILE, IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, ZDENEK CERNIK, HAS EITHER LEFT FOR PRAGUE OR IS PLANNING TO LEAVE VERY SOON TO REPORT TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY SUPERIORS ON THE IDEOLOGICAL STATUS OF HIS STAFF AS WELL HIS OWN.
(MORE)

PAGE 2 NYC 35

IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE DECISION TO CALL CERNIK FOR HOME CONSULTATIONS WAS PROMPTED BY THE MLADEK CASE OR WHETHER IT WAS OF A GENERAL NATURE. IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAS RECENTLY DISPLAYED NERVOUSNESS AND UNCERTAINTY OVER THE PROSPECT OF ACCOUNTING TO HIS SUPERIORS FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CONTINGENT AT THE U.N. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. OBSERVERS NOTED THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE 1968 INVASION, CERNIK REPEATEDLY PROTESTED ALLEGATIONS APPEARING IN THE AMERICAN PRESS THAT HE WAS A STALINIST. HE THEN TOOK PAINS TO EXPLAIN TO AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS AT THE U.N. AND WESTERN DIPLOMATS THAT HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF STALINISM, THAT HIS CAREER HAD SUFFERED, AND THAT HE WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE IDEALS AND PROGRAMS OF FORMER FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY, ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

THE SCHEDULED RETURN TO PRAGUE OF MLADEK WAS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A RETALIATION AGAINST HIS ADMITTED LIBERAL LEANINGS. MLADEK HAS BEEN AT HIS UN POST BETWEEN THREE AND FOUR YEARS, WHICH IS A NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY.

-30-

END MSG