

1970 OCT 23 14:50
RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: C

MUN 59 23 OCT 70

TO: DURKEE INFO YARROW HOVEY DUNNING KAUFMANN REYMAN
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BEDE BERNARD BROWN KOHAK LYON
NOWAK PECHACEK/BELLUS ZAHARIEFF

231325:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 242

1. BULGARIA: RADIO SOFIA ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT KATUSHEV, CPSU SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN PARTIES, WAS IN SOFIA. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO REASON FOR HIS PRESENCE OTHER THAN THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEDNESDAY OF THE DATE OF THE FORTHCOMING BCP CONGRESS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT KATUSHEV MAY HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE CC PLENUM WHICH FIXED THE CONGRESS DATE.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: BOTH ULBRICHT AND HUSAK SPOKE YESTERDAY AT A FESTIVE GATHERING IN PRAGUE. THE FORMER'S SPEECH WAS VINTAGE ULBRICHT BRINGING NOTHING ESSENTIALLY NEW. HUSAK'S CAREFULLY WORDED SPEECH WAS INTERESTING ON THREE COUNTS: 1) THOUGH STRESSING THAT THE ANNULMENT AB INITIO OF THE MUNICH AGREEMENT WAS THE ESSENTIAL PRECONDITION FOR IMPROVED CZECHOSLOVAK-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS, HE REFRAINED FROM ADDING THE PHRASE "WITH ALL ITS CONSEQUENCES" WHEN REFERRING TO THE MUNICH AGREEMENT. THIS MIGHT GIVE CREDENCE TO PREVIOUS SPECULATION THAT PRAGUE IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT CERTAIN LEGAL ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INSISTING ON A FORMAL DECLARATION OF ANNULMENT. 2) THOUGH STRONGLY SUPPORTING ULBRICHT'S STAND ON HIS OWN RELATIONS WITH BONN, HUSAK SEEMED TO BE IMPLYING THAT PRAGUE'S RELATIONS WITH BONN WERE NOT ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF BONN-PANKOW RELATIONS. 3) HUSAK LAID STRONG STRESS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE GDR PARTICULARLY

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IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERISATION AND NEW TECHNICAL PROCESSES.

THE BELGRADE POLITIKA CARRIES A TRENCANT ARTICLE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DOGMATIC LEFT FRONT GROUP IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT REFERS TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JOURNAL OF THE SAME NAME AND CONCLUDES THAT THE AIM OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS TO FORM AN EXTRA-PARTY OPPOSITION. CS BD IS USING THE ARTICLE CLEARLY ATTRIBUTED TO POLITIKA.

CETKA HAS JUST ANNOUNCED THAT CZECH INTERIOR MINISTER GROESSER HAS BEEN REPLACED BY JOSEF JUNG. CS EERA UNIT WILL ISSUE SHORT ANALYSIS THIS AFTERNOON.

4. HUNGARY: ON THE EVE OF FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER SCHILLER'S VISIT WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SUNDAY, TRIPS TO BUDAPEST BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE CDU PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HAVE ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED IN BONN. WERNER MARX LEFT YESTERDAY FOR TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION WITH HUNGARIAN POLITICIANS AND FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIALS, WHILE GERHARD SCHROEDER IS DUE TO PAY A ONE-WEEK VISIT STARTING ON OCTOBER 29, DURING WHICH HE WILL HAVE TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER FOCK, FOREIGN MINISTER PETER AND HIGH PARTY OFFICIALS. BUDAPEST'S RELATIVELY LOW-KEY DIALOGUE WITH BONN IS THUS BEING BROADENED TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SCHILLER VISIT, WE NOTE WITH INTEREST A "HANDELSBLATT" INTERVIEW WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BANK, JANOS FEKETE, IN WHICH HE STATED THAT HUNGARY COULD NOT AFFORD TO BUY ON CREDIT IN WEST GERMANY AND THAT THE TALKS WOULD THEREFORE CENTER ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

MTI REPORTED YESTERDAY ON A MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20 BETWEEN INTERIOR MINISTER BENKEI, JUSTICE MINISTER KOROM AND MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE TRADE UNION NATIONAL COUNCIL, HEADED BY GENERAL SECRETARY SANDOR GASPAR. UNDER DISCUSSION, ACCORDING TO MTI, WERE THE VIEWS OF HUNGARIAN WORKERS ON THE ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL AND INTERIOR MINISTRY AUTHORITIES. GASPAR, ALLEGEDLY CONVEYING THE SUBSTANCE OF OBSERVATIONS MADE IN LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE TRADE UNION COUNCIL, TOLD THE GROUP THAT THERE HAD BEEN COMPLAINTS ABOUT CASES OF BUREAUCRATIC AND HIGH-HANDED BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THESE OFFICIALS. ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE WORKERS WERE SAID TO FEEL THAT THE HANDLING OF DRUNKARDS AND THOSE GUILTY OF "RIOTOUS" BEHAVIOR WAS NOT FIRM ENOUGH. PERHAPS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANTLY

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HE REMARKED THAT THE WORKERS BELIEVE THAT THE RIGID APPLICATION OF THE LETTER OF THE LAW DOES "NOT ALWAYS CORRECTLY REFLECT THE TRUE INTENTIONS OF LEGISLATION. IN SOME CASES, THIS ENSURES SPECULATION, UNSCRUPULOUSNESS AND PROFIT TO THE DETRIMENT OF OTHERS" (WE NOTE THAT THE SHORTER RADIO BUDAPEST ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING DID NOT MENTION THIS POINT). THE TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION THAT AMENDMENT OF THE PERTINENT LAWS AND DECREES IN LINE WITH THE JUSTIFIED COMPLAINTS OF THE WORKERS WAS REQUIRED, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE TWO MINISTRIES

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4. POLAND: THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNAL NEWS IS THAT THE ONCE CHAIN-SMOKING GOMULKA HAS NOT SMOKED FOR TWO YEARS. POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS ON THIS TEND TO VARY. ON POLISH-WEST GERMAN RELATIONS, THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" CARRIES A REPORT BY DETTMAR CRAMER FROM BONN YESTERDAY WHICH TAKES A QUITE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN BONN AND WARSAW. ACCORDING TO CRAMER, AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED ON THE ESSENTIALS OF THE TREATY TEXT, WITH ONLY "NUANCES" YET TO BE WORKED OUT. HE DESCRIBES THE MORE PESSIMISTIC APPRAISALS NOW BEING AIRED AS A PLOY -- PURELY FOR REASONS OF DOMESTIC POLITICS -- TO BUILD UP THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO WARSAW. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT CDU-CSU RESOLUTION, IT IS HARD, HOWEVER, TO FIND ANY CONVINCING EVIDENCE AT THE MOMENT TO SUPPORT CRAMER'S CLAIM THAT A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION DEPUTIES ARE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR THE TREATY WHEN IT COMES UP FOR RATIFICATION IN PARLIAMENT. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG GOVERNMENT HAS CAREFULLY AVOIDED DISMISSING THE WHOLE RESOLUTION OUT OF HAND, AND THAT THE POLISH REACTION AVAILABLE THUS FAR HAS NOT BEEN NEARLY AS HARSH AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. RAINER BARZEL

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HAS AGAIN STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKING OUT A JOINT NEGOTIATING STAND FOR THE TALKS IN WARSAW AND HAS URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO "TAKE THE CONSTRUCTIVE CDU PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION".

5. RUMANIA: AT A FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR YESTERDAY, CEAUSESCU READ A ROUTINE PREPARED STATEMENT AND THEN FACED A TWENTY-MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION. THE RUMANIAN LEADER SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN QUITE AT EASE IN HANDLING QUESTIONS RANGING FROM THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE (HE SAID FACETIOUSLY THAT IT COULD NOT BE APPLIED TO RUMANIA BECAUSE IT DID NOT AND COULD NOT EXIST, BREZHNEV HAVING STATED THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING) TO GOVERNMENT POLICY ON SKIRT LENGTHS (HE MERELY LAUGHED). QUESTIONS ALLUDING TO THE LACK OF FREEDOMS IN RUMANIA WERE DISMISSED IN FLIPPANT FASHION.

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6. OTHER: THE NIXON-GROMYKO MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE RESULTED IN NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE ON THE ISSUES CURRENTLY UNRESOLVED BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, INDICATE A DISTINCT EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. THUS, IN CONTRAST TO THE CONCERN RECENTLY EXPRESSED IN OFFICIAL US CIRCLES ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE FIRST ROGERS-GROMYKO MEETING AND THE TONE OF GROMYKO'S DIATRIBE AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WASHINGTON SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO DISREGARD SOVIET NEGATIVISM. WE SHOULD BE BETTER INFORMED TODAY AS TO THE ACTUAL STATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SINCE THE PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE DEVOTED A MAJOR PORTION OF HIS SPEECH (TO BE DELIVERED AT THE UN TODAY) TO THIS SUBJECT. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT, IN COVERAGE OF THE NIXON-GROMYKO MEETING, THE BD'S STRESSED THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE IN IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE US IN WHICH ANY SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS MUST TAKE PLACE.

THE EXPULSION OF NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT DORNBERG FROM THE USSR AND THE TRANSPARENT SOVIET ALLEGATION THAT DORNBERG WAS USING HIS PRESS ACCREDITATION TO CONDUCT "ANTI-SOVIET PROVOCATIONS" ILLUSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THE EXCESSIVE RESTRICTIONS ON WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN THE USSR. NEWSWEEK HAS REJECTED THE ACCUSATIONS OF TASS AND IZVESTIYA. IN REPORTING THE SOVIET SCENE DORNBERG DOES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE INTELLECTUAL OPPOSITION. HIS ARTICLE IN THIS WEEK'S DIE ZEIT CONCERNING THE TRIAL OF PIMENOV, WHICH SEEMS LARGELY BASED ON RESEARCH DONE HERE, INTRODUCES NEW MATERIAL WHICH COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN GLEANED FROM LOCAL CONTACTS. SINCE DORNBERG'S EXPULSION FOLLOWS SOON AFTER THOSE OF TIME'S CLOUD AND CBS'S COLE, IT CAN SURPRISE NO ONE THAT THE SOVIET REGIME HAS AGAIN REGISTERED SENSITIVITY IN THIS MANNER CONCERNING WESTERN PRESS CONTACT WITH SOVIET INTELLECTUALS.

THE WOUNDING OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CHILEAN ARMY, GENERAL SCHNEIDER, (COMING 48 HOURS BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS) HAS INTRODUCED A DESTABILIZING ELEMENT INTO THE PROVISIONAL BALANCE ACHIEVED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN LEFTIST AND OTHER POLITICAL GROUPINGS. IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF IDENTIFICATION OF THE FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK, WE HAVE ADVISED THE BD'S TO TREAT THE EVENT ON THE BASIS OF RESPONSIBLE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE SITUATION AND NOT INDULGE IN SPECULATION.

END MSG