

TO: 0

NYC 93 25 JULY 68
TO WALTER
FROM PETZALL INFO DURKEE
241 PM

JUL 25 21:46

A VISITOR FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA THURSDAY DESCRIBED THE MOOD OF THE NATION AS "ABSOLUTELY DETERMINED, UNITED, AND OPTIMISTIC."

THE VISITOR IS A MINING ENGINEER FROM MORAVSKA OSTRAVA WHO ARRIVED IN NEW YORK ON WEDNESDAY. HE IS VISITING A STEPBROTHER WHO IS A SECRETARIAT EMPLOYEE.

ACCORDING TO THE VISITOR, THERE IS VERY LITTLE CONCERN AMONG THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE THAT THE DUBCEK LEADERSHIP WOULD BETRAY THE STATED GOALS OF THE LIBERALIZATION. IN FACT, THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS HAVE UNIFORMLY BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND PEOPLE SIMPLY REJECT ANY NOTION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MIGHT BE EVEN A SLIGHT CURTAILMENT OF THE NEWLY-WON FREEDOMS.

THE VISITOR DISAGREED WITH WESTERN INTERPRETATIONS IN THE PRESS THAT A POSSIBLE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD BE PASSIVELY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE. HE SPOKE OF A "VERY STRONG DETERMINATION" OF THE WORKERS TO DEMONSTRATE BY STRENGTH IF NECESSARY SHOULD THE OUTCOME OF THE MOSCOW-PRAGUE NEGOTIATIONS BE IN DOUBT. THE VISITOR, WHO IS A FORMER LIEUTENANT-COLONEL IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY, (MORE)

PAGE 2 NYC 93

AND WHO RECENTLY WAS OFFERED THE RANK OF A GENERAL SHOULD HE DESIRE TO RETURN TO THE ARMY, WAS ALSO QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK TROOPS WOULD RESPOND SHOULD THE LEADERSHIP CALL ON THEM IN A MOMENT OF CRISIS.

THE VISITOR FURTHER REVEALED THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE AN UNSPOKEN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP AND ITS MANY DOMESTIC OPPONENTS NOT TO DO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION AND TO PROVIDE ANY PRETEXT FOR A SOVIET INTERVENTION. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE OPENLY ORGANIZING DESPITE THE FACT THAT OFFICIALLY THEY HAVE BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO DO SO. THEY ARE NOT CAMPAIGNING CLANDESTINELY AND THE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT TAKEN ANY MEASURES AGAINST THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZERS.

THE SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD OF TWO ATTEMPTS TO KILL INTERIOR MINISTER PAVEL, ONE BY POISONING.

THE VISITOR'S OBSERVATIONS WERE RELAYED TO ENDRST BY THE VISITOR'S STEPBROTHER WITH WHOM HE NOW IS STAYING ON VACATION.
END MSG