

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

INCOMING CIPHER MESSAGE

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TO: WALTER INFO PECHACEK COOK
FM: PETZALL INFO ELIAS

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STARTING THIS WEEKEND, WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF OBSERVANCES MARKING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION. WE EXPECT THAT THE TENOR OF THESE WILL BE PRETTY RABID AND THUS WILL BE DIFFICULT TO USE IN PROGRAMMING U.S. REACTIONS HERE. THEREFORE, WE WILL NEED SOME GUIDANCE ON THE COVERAGE OF SUCH EVENTS.

AMONG THE MANY EXPECTED RALLIES WILL BE OBSERVANCES IN NEW YORK, CLEVELAND AND VARIOUS OTHER AMERICAN AND CANADIAN CITIES. ALSO, THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. FOR INSTANCE, ON WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK THERE WAS A PRESS CONFERENCE IN BOSTON HOSTED BY THE CONSERVATIVE YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM (YAF) AT WHICH TWO YOUNG CZECHOSLOVAK STUDENTS ANNOUNCED THAT DEMONSTRATIONS WERE PLANNED FOR PRAGUE AND ELSEWHERE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON AUGUST 21. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME DETAILS FROM THIS PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH ARE AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFICULTY POSED AS TO USE OF SUCH MATERIAL:

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USING THE PSEUDONYMS OF JAN AND PETER TO PROTECT WHAT THEY SAID WERE "OUR FAMILIES," THE YOUNG CZECHS DECLARED THAT ALTHOUGH "SOME" OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN "ARE AFRAID OF PERSECUTION" AND REPRISALS, "NEARLY ALL OF THEM WILL JOIN THE DEMONSTRATION ON AUGUST 21ST." BOTH JAN AND PETER SAID THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES "FOR 3 MONTHS" AND "ARE HERE TO TRAVEL AROUND THE UNITED STATES TO LEARN A LOT ABOUT LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TO TELL THE PEOPLE, IF THEY ARE INTERESTED, HOW THE SITUATION IS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA." JAN TOLD NEWSMEN "THINGS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE SPRING OF 1968 WHEN PEOPLE BELIEVED WE SHALL BECOME A FREE COUNTRY AGAIN."

THEY POINTED OUT THAT "THINGS ARE REALLY SAD" IN THEIR COUNTRY "BECAUSE THERE IS NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH, NO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS." JAN NOTED THAT PRESENTED "THERE ARE POSTERS ALL OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA TELLING THE PEOPLE WHAT TO DO ON AUGUST 21ST." HE SAID: "THERE WILL BE CHURCH BELLS RINGING." HE CONTINUED:

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"THE PEOPLE ARE BEING ASKED TO DRESS IN BLACK, JUST TO WALK IN THE STREETS IN PRAGUE, DO NOT USE ANY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, DON'T USE ANY CARS, DO NOT GO TO THE SHOPS, DO NOT BUY ANY FOOD, DON'T GO TO THE THEATRES AND CINEMAS--IN FACT, THEY WILL NOT PLAY ON THAT DAY--AND, THERE WILL BE DEMONSTRATIONS IN PRAGUE, AND THE PEOPLE WILL PUT SOME FLOWERS AT THE STATUE OF SAINT WENCESLAUS WHERE A FEW PEOPLE WERE KILLED DURING THE RUSSIAN INVASION LAST YEAR." HE ALSO SAID "THERE WILL BE SOME PROTEST MARCHES."

WHEN THE YOUNG CZECH STUDENT CALLING HIMSELF PETER WAS ASKED HOW THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES CAN HELP, HE REPLIED: "A SINGLE INHABITANT OF AMERICA COULDN'T HELP CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT IF THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY, THIS WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

ASKED WHETHER THEY ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THEIR COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY FREEDOM IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BOTH JAN AND PETER AGREED THAT THEY WERE "QUITE PESSIMISTIC." THEY SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS LIKE "ANOTHER HUNGARY."

ASKED WHETHER THEY EXPECTED ANY VIOLENCE ON AUGUST 21ST, THEY REPLIED: "NO. THE PEOPLE ARE BEING ASKED TO BE VERY QUIET." THEY EMPHASIZED THAT A DEMONSTRATION DOES NOT MEAN VIOLENCE.

REGARDS.

END MSG