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30 AUG 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Assessment of KH Information in Light of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia

1. The OSR memorandum of 2 August which stated, "It appears the Soviet high command has in about two weeks time completed military preparations sufficient for intervening in Czechoslovakia if that is deemed necessary by the political leadership," derived its conclusion from sources other than KH, principally [redacted]

2. We asked OSR for assessment of what they would have predicted if they had the KH material from [redacted] and CORONA (1104) prior to the invasion. [redacted] contends that even if the information as we have it were available on 15 August we still would not have been able to report the imminence of an invasion of Czechoslovakia.

3. [redacted] further projects that if we had had [redacted] available for interpretation on a daily basis throughout the period 1 July to 19 August, we still would not have been able to say with any reasonable certainty that the Soviets were going to invade. Such photography, however, could be employed to emphasize and dramatize the seriousness of the situation in the minds of top-level policy makers.

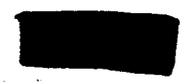
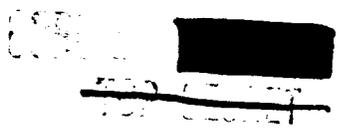
4. OSR is in the process now of a post-event analysis to determine what conclusions can be made regarding Soviet capabilities, doctrine and the relative usefulness of the various information sources. We will keep you advised of this effort as it progresses. It is scheduled for completion in about four weeks.



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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997



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5. On a somewhat related note, you will recall the DDCI's memorandum on the subject of present and potential capabilities to provide warning. We are working with General Taylor on this; he has confirmed that the exercise is limited to the warning of a Soviet or Chinese strategic nuclear attack on the United States. At any rate, we are now preparing a terms of reference for our effort which will be submitted to you for approval shortly.

/s/ John N. McMahon

JOHN N. McMAHON

Acting Director of Special Projects

cc: Dr. Lauderdale

Distribution:

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OSP/JNMcMahon:bg/7905 (30 August 1968)

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