

August 22, 1968

Prague Embassy Urges Caution on Radio Free Europe and Voice of America

Citation:

"Prague Embassy Urges Caution on Radio Free Europe and Voice of America", August 22, 1968, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWHIP by A. Ross Johnson. Cited in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document number C05459061.
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/115116>

Summary:

In Prague Embassy Dispatch No. 3079, Ambassador Jacob Beam urges the US Radios to provide factual reporting and neither encourage nor discourage Czechoslovak youth opposed to the invasion

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4625
AMCONGEN MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3097

SPECIAL HANDLING

~~ROGER CHANNEL~~

SITUATION HERE TENSE AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ASSESS AS GREAT PRESSURES CLEARLY BEING APPLIED ON PARTY CONGRESS WHICH NOW DEPRIVED OF ITS LEADERSHIP. MEANTIME YOUTH WHO ARE ANGERED BY REPORTS OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF LEADERS ARE GETTING RESTIVE AND SOVIETS NERVIOUS. EXTREME CAUTION CALLED FOR IN MEDIA REPORTING OF EVENTS. ANYTHING READ AS ENCOURGEMENT TO YOUTH COULD CREATE SITUATION PUTTING ADDITIONAL HEAVY PRESSURES ON REMAINING PARTY LEADERS WHILE DISCOURAGEMENT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS LACK OF SUPPORT. MEDIA SHOULD MAINTAIN POLICY OF RAPID REPORTING OF NEWS AND PRESS COMMENTS WITH FULL ATTRIBUTION TO SOURCES ESPECIALLY IN CASES WHERE REPORTS VAGUE AS TO PRECISE FACTS.
BEAM

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