

SWNCC 091 CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(MISCELLANEOUS)

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LIST OF PAPERSFILE NO. 091 CZECHOSLOVAKIA (MISCELLANEOUS)

| NO. | FROM | DATE | TO | SYNOPSIS |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------------|---|
| 1 | Sec. of War | 6/11/45 | Sec. of State | Correspondence re request of Czechoslovak Govt. for American troops to hand over German arms. (cross ref. 388.3, Disarmament serial 20) |
| 2 | Sec. of War | 6/14/45 | Sec. of State | Letter concerning the request of the Czechoslovakian Govt. for the return to Prague of a Check. Armored brigade, now in European Theater of Operations. |
| 3 | | 6/30/45 | | IPCOG Memo for Information No. 3. Protection for Minority Populations of Czechoslovakia. |
| 4 | R. P. Patterson | 7/16/45 | Sec. of State | Letter regarding of American aircraft in Czechoslovakia. |
| 5 | Sec. of War | 7/30/45 | Sec. of State | Letter re military air transport service to Czechoslovakia --SWNCC 31/3-- (cross ref 040, Civil Aeronautics, Germany Ser. |
| 6 | " | 7/28/45 | " | Letter re Military air transport service to Czechoslovakia--SWNCC 31/3 confiscation of live stock, etc. by American Force in Czechoslovakia. |
| 7 | Gen. Hood | 10/7/45 | Sec. of State | Re: Air Transport Service to Czechoslovakia. |
| 8 | Sec. of War | 10/15/46 | Sec. of State | Letter re: Maintenance of troops in Czechoslovakia for indefinite period Gen. Eisenhower. |
| 9 | Gen. Hood | 10/19/46 | | Re: ATC availability to aid U.S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia in negotiations on subject problem. |
| 10 | | | | General Situation Czechoslovakia. |

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Czechoslovakia
MUCCzechoslovakia1. General Situation

The existing political situation, in which the government is controlled by the Communist party, does not make it desirable that Czechoslovakia be singled out for any special aid at this time. The U.S. objective, however, of maintaining Czechoslovak economic contacts with the West Western States and strengthening the position of the moderates in the government, can be served by supporting the Czechoslovak request for a long term reconstruction loan from the International Bank, the extension of small commodity credits by the Exim Bank, and by giving consideration to a WAI credit and the possible unfreezing of the unused portion of the FIS credit. Similarly, a supplemental information program would be valuable in maintaining Czechoslovak contacts with the U.S. and the states of Western Europe.

It is possible that the present political situation in Czechoslovakia will change. In the event of a political shift which would bring the Moderates to power, or economic changes which might threaten the present stability of the Czechoslovak economy, it would be essential to extend assistance in view of the strategic location of Czechoslovakia and the role it plays as a leader among the small Slavic states of Europe.

2. Conclusion

Czechoslovakia does not urgently require assistance of the type envisaged in the program of aid to foreign governments. The extent of economic recovery since the end of the war has not solved the problem of a deficit in the volume of payments for 1947, but makes unnecessary any special program other than the assistance which can be furnished by existing international organizations and on a continuing basis by the normal processes of U.S. diplomacy. It is considered, therefore, that no program of aid is warranted during the interim period covered by this interim report. However, a thorough analysis of Czechoslovakia should be included in the study on the long range objectives of U.S. policy.

TOP SECRET

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091 Czech-3

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By Authority of
The Commanding General
Army Air Forces

AFDTR-7 Initials

- 1 OPD
- 2 Chief of Staff
- 3 Secretary of War

1:2
3 Approval
Signature

Maj. Gough/3167

581.0132

Air Transport Service to Czechoslovakia

19 OCT 1945

SUMMARY:

1. Letter, dated 9 October 1945, from Hon. W. L. Clayton, Asst. Secretary of State to Secretary of War makes reference to earlier letter which requested information as to when ATC personnel would be available to assist U. S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia in negotiations on subject problem.

2. Referenced earlier letter was answered by letter from Secretary of War on 8 October 1945, so it appears repeated inquiry from State Department crossed in mail. Attached reply to Secretary of State's renewed inquiry invites attention to letter from Secretary of War, dated 9 October, and gives supplemental information that necessary liaison between War and State Departments has been established on this problem.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Coordination:

3. Reply has been coordinated with the ASWA

For the Commanding General, Army Air Forces:

Signed

2 Incls.

Ltr frm SD dtd 9 Oct. 45

Ltr for sig of AS/W.

REUBEN C. HOOD, JR.
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Deputy Chief of Air Staff.

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| COL. MCCARTHY | ..... |
| COMDR. RICHARDSON | ..... |
| MR. R. E. COX | ..... |
| LT. COL. PENNOYER | ..... |
| LT. COL. WILFUSS | ..... |
| MR. H. W. MOBELEY | ..... |
| MR. J. P. GARDINER | ..... |
| LT. COL. ROCKEFELLER | |
| LT. COL. V. F. FIELD | |
| MAJ. W. E. GUNTHER | |
| 1ST LT. E. SPITTALL | |
| ENS. F. WHITESIDE | |
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AFDTR-7

AFAMS

Maj. Gough

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NOTED-OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF

22 OCT 1945

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Copy for Office of Signature

Secret

Written
AC/AS-4, Transportation Div
Maj Gough/do/3167

The Honorable

The Assistant Secretary of State

2200

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Concerning your inquiry of October 9, 1945, in which you refer to your letter of September 19, I wish to invite your attention to my reply of October 8 relevant to Air Transport Command operations in Czechoslovakia.

It is my understanding that Colonel Van Nostrand and Major Hill of the Air Transport Command European Division have already contacted the United States Ambassador at Prague and, while arrangements with the Czechs have been delayed temporarily, the necessary liaison between our Departments on the matter has been effected.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON
Secretary of War

CHIEF OF BUREAU
COLLECTOR OF TAXES
S/W P. J. J. J.

Secret

C
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P
YDEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTONIn reply refer to
AV 860F.7962/9-845

October 9, 1945

SECRET

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Reference is made to my letter of September 19, 1945 requesting information as to when Air Transport Command personnel will be available and assigned to assist the United States Ambassador at Prague, Czechoslovakia, with negotiations for a formal agreement covering Air Transport Command operations in that country.

The Department would greatly appreciate a reply to that letter.

Sincerely yours,

For the Secretary of State:

/s/ William L. Clayton
ASSISTANT SECRETARYThe Honorable
Robert P. Patterson
Secretary of War.SECRET

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| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| COL. O'CARTHY | |
| COMDR. RICHARDSON | |
| MR. R. E. COX | |
| LT. COL. PENNOYER | |
| LT. COMDR. WILFUSS | |
| MR. H. W. MOSELEY | |
| MR. J. P. GARDINER | ..... |
| LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER | |
| LT. COL. V. F. FIELD | |
| MAJOR 5. [unclear] | |
| 1ST LT. E. SPITTALL | |
| ENS. F. WHITESIDE | |
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091 Czechoslovakia

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On 6 October, at the request of the State Department, General Eisenhower was directed to maintain a corps of approximately two divisions in Czechoslovakia until 15 November. It is my understanding now that the State Department feels political considerations dictate that our forces remain in Czechoslovakia for an indefinite period.

Our present studies indicate that there is sufficient transportation available to return to the United States by mid-January, all surplus forces in Europe. In view of the current pressure upon the army to effect the most rapid possible demobilization, the only forces now scheduled to be on the continent after mid-January are those for which General Eisenhower has a proven requirement. As you know, there are no troops set up for the occupation of Czechoslovakia past 15 November. In view of the fact that approximately 45 days are required to move troops from the occupational areas to the United States any troops left in Czechoslovakia for an indefinite period after 15 November would represent an increase in the required strength of the army, both in Europe, and as a whole. The two-divisional corps now in Czechoslovakia has a total strength of approximately 30,000. General Eisenhower has indicated that this is the minimum strength that should be maintained there. Simply speaking then, the retention of our forces in Czechoslovakia will prevent the demobilization of approximately 30,000 men for the period of commitment plus an estimated 60 days necessary to move them to the United States and discharge them.

On 11 October, General Eisenhower visited Czechoslovakia and there conferred with President Benes and Ambassador Steinhardt. As a result of this conference, he has informed the War Department, that President Benes feels that he has a definite chance to save the country as a strong democracy, and that Ambassador Steinhardt believes our withdrawal would endanger this possibility. He has further stated that, if we withdraw from the area that we now occupy, it will immediately come under Soviet control.

As a result of General Eisenhower's conference, he is sending Ambassador Murphy and General Bull to Pilsen and Prague on 14 October

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The Honorable, The Secretary of State

to make a more thorough investigation of the political and military implications incident to our planned withdrawal. General Eisenhower believes he can inform the War Department of these implications about 16 October, and he has requested that any decision to modify our present plans await further recommendations from him.

I request, therefore, that no decision be made relative to modification of the planned evacuation date until such time as General Eisenhower's recommendations are received. I shall notify you of these recommendations as soon as they reach me.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War

SECRET

1 Chief of Staff
2 Secretary of War

1 Approval
2 Signature

AFATC/PL/SP

Lt Col Leylan/71704

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Air Transport Service to Czechoslovakia

6 OCT 1945

SUMMARY:

1. Letter to the Secretary of War, dated 19 September 1945, from the Assistant Secretary of State requests information relative to availability of Air Transport Command personnel for assignment at Praha.

2. Letter for signature of Secretary of War states that the European Division of the Air Transport Command has been directed to contact the American Embassy at Praha and to assign two representatives to assist the Ambassador in negotiations herein referred to.

COORDINATION:

3. Reply has been coordinated with the Assistant Secretary of War for Air.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

Signed

REUBEN C. HOOD, JR.
Brigadier General, U. S. Army,
Deputy Chief of Air Staff.

2 Incls
1. Ltr to SW fm AS/S
2. Draft of reply

W00054
SPD
10/10/45

WET
NOTED-OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
6 Oct 45

| SWNCC | |
|------------------------|-------|
| COL. McCARTHY | |
| COMDR. RICHARDSON | |
| MR. R. E. COX | |
| LT. COL. PENNOYER | |
| LT. COMDR. WILFUS | |
| MR. H. W. MOSELEY | |
| MR. J. P. GARDINER | |
| LT. COMDR. ROCKEFELLER | |
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| ENS. F. WHITESIDE | |
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The Honorable
The Secretary of State

8 - OCT 1945

My dear Mr. Secretary:

With reference to your letter of September 19, 1945, the European Division of the Air Transport Command has been directed to contact the American Embassy in Prague directly to assign qualified personnel to assist the United States Ambassador in his negotiations with the Czechoslovakian Government to arrive at a formal agreement on military air transport operating rights.

Accordingly, Air Transport Command personnel will proceed to Prague at the convenience of the Ambassador.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Acting Secretary of War

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Copy for Joint War-Navy Coordinating Committee
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SECRET**SECRET****DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON**In reply refer to
AV 860F.7962/9-845

September 19, 1945

SECRET

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I refer to the Department's letter of August 14, 1945 concerning the proposed military air transport service to Czechoslovakia and to telegram no. 325 dated September 8, 1945 from the American Embassy at Praha, copies of which have been made available to the War Department, in which it is recommended by the United States Ambassador that negotiations for a formal agreement be opened.

The Department would appreciate being informed when Air Transport Command personnel will be available and assigned to assist the United States Ambassador at Praha with the negotiations and upon receipt of such advice, will instruct the United States Ambassador accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

For the Acting Secretary of State:

/s/ William L. Clayton
William L. Clayton
Assistant Secretary

The Honorable

Henry L. Stinson,

Secretary of War.

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CONFIDENTIAL

091 Czechoslovakia

28 JUL 1945

The Honorable Joseph C. Grew**Acting Secretary of State****Dear Mr. Secretary:**

In reply to your request for an investigation of the reported seizure of food stocks and livestock by American forces in Czechoslovakia, I wish to inform you that no evidence was found to support the alleged seizure of food, cattle, and stud horses as booty by the American Army in Czechoslovakia.

With respect to food supplies and requisitioning of cattle, the Czechoslovakian Military Government authorities and the United States Civil Affairs Detachment state that no information could be ascertained as to the source of, or foundation for, the allegations. The Czechoslovakian authorities at Domaslice offered the information that, just prior to the arrival of the U. S. forces, the Germans caused the removal of large quantities of food. Later the Commanding Officer of the Civil Affairs Detachment at Domaslice contemplated the confiscation of certain small food stocks, but due to Czechoslovakian protests he took no further action. Either of these reports might have given rise to the allegations.

At Hostau, a Wehrmacht remount depot principally for horse breeding purposes, was captured by U. S. forces engaged in combat with German forces. After its capture further combat was required to repel a German counterattack. No assistance was furnished by Czechoslovakian personnel, either in the capture of the depot or in repelling the counterattack, and no Czechoslovakian personnel were found in the depot. The entire depot was therefore considered as captured enemy property and treated as a prize of war. Approximately 600 horses were uncovered in the Hostau depot, including a Lipizzaner herd of about 245 horses. Examination of the breeding records and questioning of personnel in charge of the depot indicated that none of the horses there were of Czechoslovakian origin. The Lipizzaner herd of Austrian origin was delivered to the stud farm of the Spanische Hofreitschule located at St Martin near Linz. The remainder of the horses were retained in the possession of the U. S. forces.

Sincerely yours,**(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON****Secretary of War**

CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRET

691 Czechoslovakia

WOM JCS
GAR
16 JUL 1945
MSP
WBY
FW

The Honorable William L. Clayton
Assistant Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of 6 June 1945 (AV 811.2360 P/6-2945) concerning the landing of American aircraft at Ruzyn airport, Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Commanding General, Army Air Forces and Headquarters, U. S. Forces, European Theater have been informed of the approval of the Czech Government for landing of United States aircraft at Prague. It is understood that the present arrangements with the Czech Government are on an informal basis, and that negotiations will be initiated to regularize the status of future Army Air Forces and Air Transport Command operations in that area.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Acting Secretary of War

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091
S E C R E T

30 June 1945

COPY NO. 40

INFORMAL POLICY COMMITTEE ON GERMANY

IPCOG MEMORANDUM FOR INFORMATION NO. 3

PROTECTION FOR MINORITY POPULATIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Note by the Secretaries

The enclosure, a letter from the London Representatives of Sudeten German Social Democratic Party requesting Inter-Allied Protection for minority populations of Czechoslovakia, transmitted to the Secretary of State by the Secretary, U. S. Delegation, E.A.C., is circulated for the information of the Informal Policy Committee on Germany.

CHARLES W. McCARTHY

ALVIN F. RICHARDSON

RAYMOND E. COX

Secretariat

SECRETENCLOSURELONDON REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
SUDETEN GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY16 Laurel Gardens,
London, N.W.7.

7th June, 1945.

H.E. John G. Winant,
American Ambassador,
1, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

We take the liberty of drawing your attention to the disturbing reports from Czechoslovakia on the wholesale expropriation and expulsion of four million minority citizens of German and Hungarian stock. Recent announcements of the Prague Government have made it unmistakably clear that the racial minorities of Czechoslovakia, one third of the total pre-Munich population, are now being subjected to an administrative and military campaign of indiscriminate retribution.

We, the undersigned parliamentary representatives of the strongest loyalist party within the Sudeten population, the Social Democratic Party, are naturally much concerned with the fate of our former constituents. On the occasion of the cancellation of the Munich Agreement by the Government of the United Kingdom in August 1942 we took the liberty of sending the following cable to Mr. Cordell Hull, the Secretary of State:

The undersigned freely elected parliamentary representatives of 300,000 democratic Sudeten Germans are alarmed by Mr. Eden's statement that the Munich Agreement is void without safeguarding the minority rights in a new Czechoslovakia. This decision has been made without consulting the legitimate representatives of the democratic Sudeten Germans. In our view it is dangerously prejudging the future political organisation of Central Europe. We hope that the great American Democracy will not abandon the principles of the Atlantic Charter nor

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disappoint the confidence of our martyrs of freedom.

Wenzel Jaksch, Eugen de Witte, Franz Katz.

Unfortunately, our apprehensions have meanwhile been substantiated. As the attached extracts show beyond doubt the lack of any provisions for minority protection under the transitory measures agreed by the principal Allies has already resulted in a tragic development in Czechoslovakia. The fate of millions of members of the national minorities is being settled by a fait accompli. They are being treated worse than war criminals, who are not denied the benefit of hearing and fair trial. Retribution is being meted out to guilty and innocent alike. According to official evidence from Prague no exception is made even for former members of loyalist minority parties who have been exposed to Gestapo persecution ever since October 1938.

While we ourselves are deprived of our constitutional rights as members of Parliament by the present Czechoslovak Government we feel impelled to request some measure of inter-allied protection for the minority populations of Czechoslovakia. We do not, of course, include those criminals who have in fact been guilty of offences against both the Czech and Sudeten populations.

We have addressed this appeal to you, Mr. Ambassador, as the American Representative both in this country and on the European Advisory Commission. We much regret the necessity of troubling you amid the stress of your other work, but in view of the imminent danger of terrible loss of life and suffering which a continuation of the present situation in Czechoslovakia must involve we venture to ask for a brief interview with you at as early a date as may be possible.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Wenzel Jaksch

(signed) Eugen de Witte

(signed) Franz Katz

- - - -

SECRETAPPENDIX

From News Chronicle, 2.6.45.

Czech Troops Pushing out Sudeten Germans

The Czechs have started operations in fulfilment of their announced intention to clear the remaining Sudeten Germans from the Czechoslovak frontier areas.

These operations are described by the Czechoslovak Minister of Information as a "momentous national offensive," says the Exchange.

General Svoboda, the new Commander-in-Chief of the Czechoslovak armed forces, is sending his troops and partisan units to these areas to drive the Germans out over the frontier into the former Reich territory.

Translated from Czechoslovak (official Czech paper published in London, 25.5.45.

The President's First Message in the Liberated Country

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"It will be necessary to re-form the political parties and to reduce their number compared with pre-war times, to reshape the relations between Czechs and Slovaks and, especially, to liquidate without compromise the Germans in the Bohemian lands and the Hungarians in Slovakia."

Translated from Czechoslovak, 1.6.45.

The Property of the Traitors

The Government has prepared a Bill dealing with the transfer into national administration of the property, private and public, movable and immovable, of Germans, Hungarians, traitors and collaborators as well as of certain organisations and institutions. Any transfer of property or legal transaction, effected after September 29th, 1938, under duress in consequence of the occupation or national, racial or political persecution have been declared void; the property of politically unreliable persons is put under national administration. As politically unreliable persons are to be regarded persons of German or Hungarian nationality, and of the Czech nation all traitors,

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collaborators, informers, abettors and henchmen of the Nazi régime, members of Czech and Slovak fascists and nationalistic organisations.

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OPD 336 Czechoslovakia (24 May 45)

SECRET

WDOPD/73373
Lt Col OEtO/bvs

JUN 14 1945

The Honorable

The Secretary of State

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With reference to your letter of 24 May 1945 concerning the request of the Czechoslovakian Government for the return to Prague of a Czechoslovakian Armored Brigade, now in the European Theater of Operations, General Eisenhower has reported the following information:

"In response to a request received by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, through the European Advisory Commission, and confirmed by the Czechoslovakian Ministry of National Defense, the Czechoslovakian Armored Brigade proceeded to Prague on 28 May 1945; participated in a parade; returned to territory occupied by United States Forces on 31 May 1945; and is presently located at Silberberg, Czechoslovakia. This temporary movement was cleared with the Russian Government by the Czechoslovakian Government."

If it is desired to return the Brigade permanently to Czechoslovakia, the War Department has no objection provided that prior agreement to the move is reached between the Czechoslovakian and Soviet Governments. In such event the Department of State may rest assured that the theater will take necessary steps to facilitate the movement. However, it appears that this matter is one of primary interest to the British Government, in view of the fact that the Brigade has been equipped and maintained by the British. Furthermore there may be in existence between the British and Czechoslovakian Governments an agreement regarding the status of this Brigade.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY L. STILSON

Secretary of War

| SWNCC | |
|------------------------|-------|
| COL. McCARTHY | ..... |
| COMDR. RICHARDSON | ..... |
| MR. R. E. COX | ..... |
| LT. COL. PENNOYER | ..... |
| LT. COMDR. BEILFUSS | ..... |
| MR. H. W. MORELEY | ..... |
| MR. J. P. BARONET | ..... |
| LT. COMDR. STEINLELLER | |
| LT. COL. V. F. FIELD | |
| MAJOR W. E. CANTHER | |
| 1ST LT. E. SPITTALL | |
| ENS. F. WHITESIDE | |
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FOR SWNCC

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