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Intelligence Note

To : The Secretary
Through : S/S
From : INR - Thomas L. Hughes *TH*

MAR 24 1964

Subject : Prague Regime To Stop Jamming VOA Broadcasts

On March 24, Czechoslovak Ambassador Karel Duda called on Assistant Secretary Tyler to advise that the Czechoslovak Government would stop jamming VOA broadcasts beginning April 1. Duda said the decision was taken in order to improve relations and the "atmosphere" between the US and Czechoslovakia.

The decision to stop VOA jamming is the latest in a series of gestures which Czechoslovakia has taken over the past year to improve relations with the US. Internally, the decision is a further indication of liberalization, similar to the recent measures which opened Czechoslovakia's frontiers to Western tourists. It is unlikely, however, that this action was taken without some serious misgivings on the part of those members of the regime who have sharply criticized intellectuals and others for their "uncritical acceptance" of Western culture and influence.

The Bulgarian regime is the only Soviet-oriented East European country which still jams VOA broadcasts. The Rumanians stopped jamming Western broadcasts in July 1963, the Hungarians the beginning of 1964, and the Poles in 1956. While these nations stopped jamming all Western broadcasts (e.g., RFE, BBC, etc.), it is not clear whether Czechoslovakia similarly intends to discontinue all jamming.

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