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October 4, 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Call by Kiro Gligorov, Vice President of Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia; October 4, 1968; 5:30 p.m.

Gligorov (GLEE-gore-off) is in Washington as head of his delegation to the IMF/IBRD meetings. He has used the week to talk with senior USG officials about the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and the problems this raises for the Yugoslavs. He has seen Secretary Smith, John Leddy, Tony Solomon, the Rostow brothers and me.

The Yugoslavs--from Tito down--have condemned the invasion, and are worried that they and the Romanians may be next. There is little doubt--either here or in Belgrade--that the Yugoslavs would put up stiff resistance to any Soviet invasion.

Gligorov clearly would like to take word back that the US continues strong in its support for Yugoslavia's independence and economic development. His pitch during the week has been to emphasize the need for economic assistance (a stretch out of debt repayments, support for EXIM and World Bank loans, etc.). He has made no mention of any military assistance.

I told Gligorov that while I could make no promises, we were prepared to look sympathetically at any specific suggestions they might have in the economic field.

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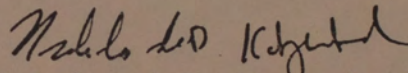
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Gligorov's main purpose (and ours) in seeing you today is to demonstrate publicly your interest in Yugoslavia. While he will want to come away with general assurances of US sympathy and support, he will not expect any specific commitments.

Ambassador Crnobrnja (sir-no-BURN-ya) will accompany Gligorov. Gligorov's English is only fair, so he will bring an interpreter.



Nicholas deB. Katzenbach

Attachments:

Tab A - Talking Points

Tab B - Biographic sketch of Gligorov

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