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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1968 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Governments of the United States and of several other countries which are allies of the United States have addressed a letter to you requesting the convening of a meeting of the Security Council to consider the question of the present situation in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

There is, however, no basis for consideration of this matter by the Security Council. As you are aware, military units of the socialist countries have entered the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic pursuant to a request by the Government of that State, which appealed to allied Governments for assistance, including assistance in the form of armed forces, in view of the threat created by foreign and domestic reaction to the socialist social order and the constitutional State system of Czechoslovakia. The Soviet Government and the Governments of other allied States decided to meet the Czechoslovak Government's request for military assistance in conformity with mutual treaty obligations and on the basis of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Needless to say, the above-mentioned military units will be withdrawn from the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic as soon as the present threat to security is eliminated and the lawful authorities find that the presence of those units is no longer necessary.

The actions of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are prompted by concern for strengthening peace and ensuring that the foundations of European security are not undermined. Attempts to present these actions in a different light can in no way alter our peaceful intentions or diminish the right of the socialist countries to individual and collective self-defence.

The Soviet Government has repeatedly warned that the attempts of imperialist reaction to interfere in the domestic affairs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic

and in relations between the socialist countries will not be tolerated and will be firmly rebuffed. It takes this opportunity to call once again upon all States to observe strictly the principles of respect for sovereignty and independence and of the inadmissibility of direct or indirect aggression against other States and peoples.

On the instructions of the Soviet Government, I wish to inform you that the Soviet Union vigorously opposes consideration of this question by the Security Council, since that would serve the interests of certain foreign circles, which represent forces of aggression. The events in Czechoslovakia are a matter that concerns the Czechoslovak people and the States of the socialist community, which are bound by appropriate mutual obligations.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as an official Security Council document.

(Signed) Y. MALIK
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations
