



“Something [on] the Order of Hungary”

Date: 1968-08-20

Conversation: WH6808-01-13309-13310

Participant: Lyndon B. Johnson

Participant: Richard M. Nixon

Start Time: 23:22

Duration: 01:59

Place: Oval Office

SCENE SETTER: As part of his effort to keep the presidential candidates apprised of key developments involving U.S. national security, President Johnson briefed Republican nominee Richard M. “Dick” Nixon about the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

President Johnson: At eight o’clock, the Soviet ambassador [Anatoly Dobrynin] came in, having called a short time earlier and said he had a[n] urgent message from Mr. [Alexei] Kosygin.

Richard M. “Dick” Nixon: Yes.

President Johnson: And he read to me a two-page statement, the net of which was that the Soviet, and the East Germans, and the Poles, and others were invading Czechoslovakia in response to a request by the Czech government.

Nixon: Mm-hmm.

President Johnson: He said this was not a matter that affected the United States’s national interest. And Mr. Kosygin wanted Mr. Johnson to know that there’s no matter that should concern them or that would in any way affect the good relationship between the two countries.

End of excerpt 1.

President Johnson: They have given us no indication of anything like this. We were greatly concerned about their recent conferences. But only yesterday we had other messages from—when I got off the plane last night in Detroit [Michigan], I had a rather friendly message from them, but they move[d] with lightning speed tonight. And [*Nixon acknowledges*] we . . .

Nixon: Were Soviet troops as well as the . . .

President Johnson: East German and Polish.

Nixon: They were all in it, huh?

President Johnson: Yeah, and I don't know who else.

Nixon: Yes.

President Johnson: But they had their meeting of their Presidium today, 2[00] or 300, and our people have been concerned that this little nation, shoving them down, these conferences would be too much for them to stand, and they would have to respond.

Nixon: Mm-hmm.

President Johnson: So we've kind of got, we don't know, something [on] the order of Hungary on our hands.

Nixon: Yes.

End of excerpt 2.

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Full information about this conversation: ["Something \[on\] the Order of Hungary"](#)