

## **January 25, 1990**

### **Czechoslovakia: Taking on the Secret Police** □□□

#### **Citation:**

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#### **Summary:**

An analysis of the new government's movement to neutralize the secret police.

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

3454

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Taking on the Secret Police**

*Prague's new government, dominated by the Civic Forum, sees the secret police as a potential threat to democracy and is taking steps to neutralize it.* [Redacted]

6.2(d)

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

Petr Pithart, a Civic Forum leader, expressed concern in a recent interview that some elements of the secret police may be going underground. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

The government is taking steps to restructure the Interior Ministry; [Redacted] appointed trusted deputies, abolished internal surveillance organizations, formed independent commissions to assess the activities of the secret police, and begun investigations of ranking Ministry officials for possible criminal activities. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)  
6.2(d)

**Comment:** Although the Interior Ministry still contains many hardline Communists and it will take time to root them out, they cannot realistically consider a coup because of the Civic Forum's popular support and their own political isolation. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)  
6.2(d)

[Redacted]

A more serious problem is the government's need to sustain the legitimate law enforcement functions of the Interior Ministry. The Civic Forum has already had to appeal to the population to cooperate with the uniformed police force and to refrain from harassing the police. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

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