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## **August 18, 1969**

### **State-CIA Exchange on Radio Free Europe Czechoslovak Broadcasts**

#### **Citation:**

"State-CIA Exchange on Radio Free Europe Czechoslovak Broadcasts", August 18, 1969, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Obtained and contributed to CWIHP by A. Ross Johnson. Cited in his book Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, CIA mandatory declassification review document number C05458041.

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/115126>

#### **Summary:**

CIA officials react to State Department criticism of a personal attack on Czechoslovak Party leader Gustav Husak in a RFE broadcast

#### **Credits:**

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#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

C05459041

8/18/1969

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
<b>CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	AC [redacted]	18/8	[redacted]
2			
3		20/8	[redacted]
4	Ac [redacted]	20/8	[redacted]
5	As [redacted]		
6			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ACTION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DIRECT REPLY</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>APPROVAL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DISPATCH</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>COMMENT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FILE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>INFORMATION</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PREPARE REPLY</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RETURN</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
<b>Remarks:</b>			
Attached script exemplifies what State objects to re RFE personal attacks on Husak (i.e. recent exchange of [redacted] memos.) State, naturally, doesn't see these scripts normally.			
1-3: What was RFE's reaction to State guidance? How can we ensure future compliance with State guidance? <i>FW</i>			
3-4: Both John and I discussed State's comment with [redacted] the comment was also sent (OVER)			
<b>FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER</b>			
<b>FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.</b>			<b>DATE</b>
[redacted]			18/8
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to [redacted] in writing. He seemed to understand State's reasoning and agreed to take it up with [redacted] in a personal note to him. Although State's view was transmitted [redacted] (as well as to me personally during a meeting with the Desk Officer), both John and I do not consider it "formal guidance" similar to that outlined in the policy guidance papers. It was passed to us more in terms of advise than as a formal position--they used the phrase "it was suggested" in their memo. The lengthy [redacted] by the way, did not contain any attack on Husak personally and this seems to indicate their compliance with State's recommendation.

Although I frequently ask State for any comments they may have on RFE broadcast policies, this recent exchange has been the first time they've offered any since I've been on board (i.e. about 5 months). John may have some comments for you on how we can ensure that RFE complies with State guidance. For my part, I've found [redacted] et.al, generally willing to accept [redacted] suggestions which I make to them on the basis of material crossing my desk and discussions with people here in Headquarters.

Dave

4-5: Thank you. In view of apparent  
 IC sensitivities on one  
 [redacted], pls retain this exchange  
 in files. *Fid*