

a serious setback. However, I for one hope that the dialogue can continue. I'm not one of those who despairs. I believe that these events will provide a lesson to peoples of Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, of the significance of the events that are taking place and of the difficult task that lies ahead in order to bring about greater freedom for peoples in that part of the world and also to promote a peaceful world, in which the peoples in the Soviet Union have just as much interest as we have.

Mr. Beauregard: Mr. Minister, is it possible that such an invasion of Czechoslovakia by Russians, Polish, Bulgarian and East German troops could not have been foreseen? You have contact with Canadian Embassies in all these countries. It seems to have come all of a sudden, but the troops must have been there somewhere getting ready for the invasion.

Mr. Sharp: I think the best answer to that is to say that the Czechoslovak authorities were taken by surprise. However, we had known from intelligence sources that the Russian troops had not left the surrounding countries, and this had been a cause of concern to us and to our allies. We have been watching this situation very carefully. Indeed at the time of the discussions between the Czechoslovaks and the Russians and the other members of the Warsaw Pact we had had intelligence information which indicated that there was some movements of troops which it wasn't intended anyone should know about, and this had caused some concern. However, the fact that there was no invasion at that time seemed to us to be a hopeful sign. It now appears