

Igor Rakić

NIŠ IN THE WHIRLWIND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS IN 1968

Summary: Warsaw pact intervention in Czechoslovakia in August 1968 had great impact on Yugoslav society and political leadership. Both, the Yugoslav government and various socio-political organizations put huge efforts to confirm state foreign policy positions regarding non-alignment and their commitment to principles of peaceful coexistence. This policy led to mobilization citizens of socialist Yugoslavia, including those in city of Niš. Almost instantly after Warsaw pact's intervention, municipal administration of Niš started preparation to accommodate Czechoslovak citizens and tourists returning from summer holidays in Bulgaria. Locally-backed Czechoslovak-language bulletin was printed in following days. It informed foreign tourists on matters regarding help for them. Citizens took part in overall help for foreigners. They offered their housing and food. State-owned and private-run enterprises offered services and help, free of charge. After leaving Niš in late August of 1968, some Czechoslovakian citizens sent letters and postcards to municipal administration in Niš to thank for the help and support during their stay in Niš.

Keywords: Niš, Prague spring, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovaks, Warsaw pact, tourists, international relations, Josip Broz

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