

CN 35

C/S -- WASHINGTON CONFERENCES

MUNICH, AUG 21 (CNR/AGENCIES) - THE HIGHEST U.S. POLICY MAKING BODY DEVOTED TO DEFENSE, THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, MET TODAY FOR 55 MINUTES ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, VICE PRESIDENT HUMPHREY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AND DEFENSE LEADERS MET AT 0315 M.T. MINUTES AFTER FIRST REPORTS OF THE FIVE-NATION MOVE INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA REACHED THE WHITE HOUSE.

A WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT SAID THAT BEFORE THIS MEETING, PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN. THIS SOVIET MESSAGE PROMPTED JOHNSON TO SUMMON THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT SAID.

AFTER THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING JOHNSON ASKED SECRETARY OF STATE RUSK TO CALL DOBRYNIN "TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER."

DOBRYNIN HURRIED TO RUSK'S STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE SOON AFTER 0435 MT. THIS MEETING LASTED 15 MINUTES.

A WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK WITH MOSCOW, THE "HOT LINE" HAD NOT BEEN USED.

IN LONDON A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, MIKHAIL SMIRNOVSKY, CALLED ON LORD CHALFONT AT HIS HOME SOON AFTER 0130 M.T. AND DELIVERED AN ORAL MESSAGE.

THE STATEMENT SAID THAT IN HIS ABSENCE MR WILSON HAD APPOINTED LORD CHALFONT TO RECEIVE THE MESSAGE.

(MORE)

BMCG/A

0656/68

AUG 21/mow

6