

X/13 DEF -- SPECIAL NATO COUNCIL TO DISCUSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRUSSELS, AUG. 21 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- A "SPECIAL MEETING" OF THE NATO PERMANENT COUNCIL HAS BEEN CALLED THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, NATO'S CHIEF SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL JAMES ROBERTS WILL PRESIDE OVER THE SESSION WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 1015 MT. NATO SECRETARY GENERAL MANLIO BROSIO IS ON HOLIDAY IN ITALY AND THE SPOKESMAN DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF BROSIO PLANNED TO CUT SHORT HIS VACATION AND RETURN TO BRUSSELS.

THE NATO SPOKESMAN SAID THE COUNCIL -- FORMED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (AMBASSADORS) OF THE 15 MEMBER NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE -- WOULD DISCUSS "ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE NATO SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT THE COUNCIL SESSION TODAY WAS A "SPECIAL" ONE, AND NOT RPT NOT AN "EMERGENCY MEETING."

THE COUNCIL HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING TODAY, BUT THE TIME WAS MOVED UP BY 45 MINUTES AND THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE EXPECTED THAT THE ITEMS ON THE NORMAL AGENDA WOULD BE DROPPED AND THE ENTIRE SESSION DEVOTED TO A REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE ALSO SAID HE EXPECTED THE COUNCIL MEETING TO LAST LONGER THAN THE USUAL ONE HOUR.

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