

CN 165

C/S - 1ST ADD - BRITISH CONDEMNATION (CN - 155) XXX BEHAVIOUR

A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT SAID PARLIAMENT WOULD BE RECALLED FROM RECESS NEXT MONDAY.

THE STATEMENT ADDED THAT "THE ACTION IS ALSO IN SHARP CONFLICT WITH OFTEN REPEATED STATEMENTS BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ABOUT NON-INTERFERENCE WITH THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF INDEPENDENT STATES."

"THIS IS A TRAGEDY NOT ONLY FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT FOR EUROPE AND THE WHOLE WORLD," THE STATEMENT DECLARED.

BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHAEL STEWART, WHO ALSO BROKE HIS HOLIDAY TO RETURN HERE, SUMMONED SOVIET AMBASSADOR MIHAIL SMIRNOVSKY AND TOLD HIM THE CZECHOSLOVAK MOVE WAS A SERIOUS BLOW TO EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT SOVIET TROOPS WOULD LEAVE WHENEVER LEGITIMATE AUTHORITIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA REQUESTED THIS - BUT DID NOT SAY WHAT WAS MEANT BY LEGITIMATE AUTHORITIES.

BMCG/HE 1701 AUG 21

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