

CN 261 \*\*\*

C/S -- JOHNSON CALLS FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL

WASHINGTON, AUG 21 (CNR/REUTER/UPI)-- PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON TODAY CALLED ON THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS COMMUNIST ALLIES TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE SAID "IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR REASON TO PREVAIL."

JOHNSON, IN A STATEMENT ISSUED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, SAID:

"IT IS A SAD COMMENTARY ON THE COMMUNIST MIND THAT A SIGN OF LIBERTY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS DEEMED A FUNDAMENTAL THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM."

"THE EXCUSES OFFERED BY THE SOVIET UNION ARE PATENTLY CONTRIVED. THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT REQUEST ITS ALLIES TO INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NO EXTERNAL AGGRESSION THREATENED CZECHOSLOVAKIA," JOHNSON SAID.

THE PRESIDENT SAID THE ACTION BY THE WARSAW PACT ALLIES WAS A "FLAT VIOLATION" OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND AS A RESULT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS URGENTLY CONSULTING OTHER NATIONS TO CONSIDER WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

JOHNSON SAID U.N. AMBASSADOR GEORGE BALL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO JOIN WITH OTHER NATIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL "TO INSIST UPON THE CHARTER RIGHTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ITS PEOPLE."

"MEANWHILE, IN THE NAME OF MANKIND'S HOPE FOR PEACE, I CALL ON THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ASSOCIATES TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

JON/UHR 1739/68 6

...