

CN 320

C/S - 1ST ADD 1930 INTRO - SECURITY COUNCIL (CN-319) XXX TROOPS

"I HAVE A DIRECT QUESTION FOR AMBASSADOR MALIK," CARADON SAID. "LET MR. MALIK TELL US NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE OTHER ACKNOWLEDGED LEADERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE FREE AND SAFE. LET AMBASSADOR MALIK CONFIRM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ARRESTED, NOT MOLESTED, BUT PERMITTED TO SPEAK AND WORK FOR THEIR PEOPLE."

MALIK IGNORED THE QUESTION. LATER HE SAID HE PLANNED TO SPEAK AT THE COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING IN REPLY TO "FABRICATIONS" AND "SLANDERS" AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION PUT INTO THE RECORD BY U.S. AMBASSADOR GEORGE W. BALL AND OTHER WESTERN SPEAKERS.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION'S ACTING CHIEF, JAN MUZIK, WON PRAISE FROM CARADON AND OTHER DIPLOMATS FOR HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COUNCIL WEDNESDAY NIGHT TO DENY THAT DUBCEK'S GOVERNMENT ASKED THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS WARSAW PACT PARTNERS, POLAND, BULGARIA, HUNGARY AND EAST GERMANY TO SEND TROOPS INTO THE COUNTRY. BUT IT WAS NOT PRESENT THURSDAY.

THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE EXPLANATION HERE OR AT CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION HEADQUARTERS FOR MUZIK'S ABSENCE. THERE WERE PERSISTENT REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK WOULD ARRIVE IN NEW YORK THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO TAKE PART IN THE U.N. DEBATE.

FOS/L 1942/68 AUG 22 1705

M