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CS - RUSK ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA

WASHINGTON, AUG 22, REUTER - SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK SAID TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HOPED THE COMMUNIST INVADERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN PUNITIVE ACTIONS OR EXCESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THAT COUNTRYS LEADERS AND PEOPLE.

SPEAKING AT THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER A LENGTHY CABINET MEETING HAD REVIEWED CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS, HE SAID: "THERE STILL REMAINS AN AUTHENTIC VOICE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAT CAN BE HEARD."

THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID WORLD REACTION APPEARED UNANIMOUS IN CONDEMNING THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"WE DO HOPE THAT THE REACTION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL CAUSE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF THE WARSAW PACT TO THINK AGAIN ABOUT THEIR ACTION," HE SAID.

IT WAS THEN THAT MR. RUSK ADDED THE UNITED STATES HOPED THIS WORLD REACTION WOULD PERSUADE THE OCCUPYING FORCES THAT THEY SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN PUNITIVE ACTIONS OR EXCESSIVE MEASURES, BUT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS AS HE FACED TELEVISION CAMERAS, MR. RUSK SAID THE COMMUNIST ACTION "CANNOT HELP BUT DAMAGE EAST-WEST RELATIONS."

HE DECLINED TO PREDICT WHETHER THE U.S. SENATE WOULD NOW GIVE ITS APPROVAL TO THE TREATY TO BAR THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NEGOTIATED AFTER YEARS OF EFFORT IN GENEVA.

JON/HI/RA 2225/68