

C/S RUSK SAYS WORLD REVULSION MAY MOVE MOSCOW (AMPLIFIES

CN 369 OF YESTERDAY)

WASHINGTON, AUG 23 (USIS) -- THE "MASSIVE AND UNANIMOUS" FORCE OF WORLD REVULSION AGAINST THE CZECHOSLOVAKIA INVASION IS A BASIS FOR HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WILL ALLOW REASON TO PREVAIL, SECRETARY OF STATE RUSK SAID THURSDAY.

TALKING WITH NEWSMEN AFTER A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND OTHER CABINET MEMBERS, THE SECRETARY SAID HE AND LEONARD MARKS, DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY, WERE ABLE TO REPORT "THE EXTRAORDINARY, UNANIMOUS... CONDEMNATION" OF THE INVASION AROUND THE WORLD. HE NOTED THAT SIGNIFICANT SEGMENTS OF COMMUNIST OPINION ALSO CONDEMNED THE INVASION.

THE CABINET MEETING LASTED FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR; MR. RUSK SAID OTHER TOPICS, INCLUDING VIETNAM, WERE BROUGHT UP, BUT DISCUSSION CONCENTRATED ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS.

MR. RUSK SAID HE HOPED THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PUNITIVE ACTION OR EXCESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE.

MR. RUSK RECALLED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD "REJECTED FROM THE BEGINNING" THE SOVIET'S STATED REASON FOR INTERVENING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, JUST AS IT HAD REJECTED FOR SOME WEEKS SOVIET CHARGES THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA FACED THREATS FROM WESTERN IMPERIALISM.

THE SOVIET UNION SAID ITS FORCES HAD BEEN "INVITED" INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY PERSONS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT. THESE PERSONS WERE NOT RPT NOT IDENTIFIED.

BUT, MR. RUSK SAID, THERE IS STILL "AN AUTHENTIC VOICE" FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE WHICH CONTRADICTS THAT CLAIM. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HENOTED, HAD MET TO STATE ITS OBJECTIONS, RADIO PRAGUE IS STILL OPERATING, AND THE "STREET SCENES" IN CZECHOSLOVAK CITIES "MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR WHAT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES THINK OF IT." (MORE) BMCG/LA 0735/68 AUG 23 