

UN - 0815 INTRO: SECURITY COUNCIL EXCHANGES (RELEADS CN 60)

UNITED NATIONS, AUG. 23, REUTER - RUSSIA STAGED A NIGHT-LONG FILIBUSTER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO STAVE OFF A VOTE ON A WESTERN RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN THE SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, JACOB MALIK, TOOK THE FLOOR TO BERATE THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS AND INSIST THAT THE COUNCIL HAD NO BUSINESS INTERVENING IN THE CZECH AFFAIR.

THE SESSION, WHICH STARTED LATE LAST NIGHT (ED: 0300 MT) AND WAS THE THIRD SINCE WEDNESDAY, WAS STILL CONTINUING SEVERAL HOURS LATER.

WESTERN DIPLOMATS SAID MALIK COULD HOLD UP THE VOTE AS LONG AS HE PLEASED THROUGH PROCEDURAL ARGUMENT AND THE RAISING OF POINTS OF ORDER.

AT THE OUTSET OF THE SESSION, CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATE JAN MUZIK ANNOUNCED THAT DR. JIRI HAJEK, FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE DUBCEK GOVERNMENT WAS ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK AND PLANNED TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL SOME TIME DURING THE DAY.

HAJEK, WHO WAS ON HOLIDAY IN YUGOSLAVIA WHEN THE RUSSIANS INVADED HIS COUNTRY, FLEW TO VIENNA FROM THE ADRIATIC RESORT OF LJUBJANA DURING THE NIGHT TO CATCH A SCHEDULED FLIGHT TO NEW YORK VIA FRANKFURT.

THE ACTING LEADER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION, JAN MUZIK, WHO WAS MAKING HIS SECOND APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COUNCIL IN 24 HOURS, AGAIN APPEALED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET FORCES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

MALIK MADE THE FIRST OF HIS INTERJECTIONS IN THE DEBATE AFTER MR. MUZIK FINISHED SPEAKING - AND BECAME ENGAGED IN A VIRULENT VERBAL DUEL WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR GEORGE BALL. (MORE)