

CN 261

X/13 E/W - 1ST ADD KIESINGER (CN 260) XXX INTERVIEWER

(EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 2000 MT)

KIESINGER STRESSED THAT BONN HAD REFRAINED FROM EXERTING THE SLIGHTEST INFLUENCE ON THE REFORM PROCESS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHICH, AS IS CLEAR NOW, WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SOVIETS. "WE HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION, ALSO VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION, THAT WE HAD TO DO NOTHING MORE URGENT THAN TO HASTEN A PROCESS OF OPENING UP A DISTANCE BETWEEN PRAGUE AND MOSCOW", KIESINGER SAID.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT BONN COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT GIVE UP EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE THE DISTRUST OF GERMANS IN EASTERN EUROPE. NOR WOULD IT ABSTAIN FROM MAINTAINING POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE.

"WE SHALL PURSUE THE BRIGHTENING UP OF THE POLITICAL CLIMATE TOWARD ANY COUNTRY IN THE EAST WHICH IS READY FOR IT, BUT WE WILL DO SO IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT BLOCK THE ROAD TO FINAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOUGHT-FOR EUROPEAN PEACE ORDER IN WHICH ALSO THE PROBLEM OF GERMAN PARTITION IS TO BE SOLVED", KIESINGER SAID. (EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 2000 MT)

BG / O 1912/68 AUG 23.

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