

CN 309

X/13 CS - 1ST ADD - BRANDT: RUMANIA (CN 289) XXX WEST

BRANDT SAID THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED POLITICALLY BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS.

"IT HAS DRAWN TOGETHER. I THINK IT WILL DRAW FURTHER TOGETHER IN VIEW OF SUCH A POLITICAL-MORAL CHALLENGE," HE SAID.

ASKED IF THE UNITED STATES HAD FAILED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BRANDT SAID THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT RPT NOT GIVE GUARANTEES OUTSIDE THE AREA OF NATO IN EUROPE.

BRANDT SAID NATO WOULD REMAIN READY TO TALK ABOUT A MUTUAL TROOP REDUCTION.

ALTHOUGH IT HARDLY SEEMED LIKE A PRACTICAL POLICY NOW, BRANDT SAID IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING FOR THE FUTURE IF THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE WERE REDUCED.

MBW/BG// E 2217/68 AUG 23.

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15