

CN 333

CS - WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ON CS

WASHINGTON AUG 23 (UPI)-- TOP CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TODAY ATTENDED A TWO-HOUR SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EMERGED WITH UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION.

BUT THEY URGED THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN A HANDS-OFF POLICY. THEY LEFT LITTLE DOUBT, HOWEVER, THAT THE INVASION BY RUSSIA AND FOUR OF ITS ALLIES HAD SERIOUSLY HURT EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, SEN. RICHARD RUSSELL, SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CRISIS WAS A "REPLAY" OF THE HUNGARIAN CRISIS OF 1956 AND ANY TREATIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION FROM NOW ON SHOULD BE BASED ON "THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-PROTECTION."

HOUSE SPEAKER JOHN MCCORMACK CALLED THE SOVIET MOVE "RAW AND NAKED AGGRESSION."

"THE SOVIET UNION HAS NOT CHANGED. THEY HAVE PROVED THAT COMMUNISM CANNOT LIVE IN COMPATIBILITY WITH LIBERTY," MCCORMACK SAID. "THE LESSON WE SHOULD LEARN HERE IS TO BE ON OUR GUARD."

BUT ASIDE FROM CONDEMNING SOVIET ACTION, THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS SHIED AWAY FROM RECOMMENDING ANY SPECIFIC ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES;

REPRESENTATIVE HALE BOGGS SAID SITUATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND VIETNAM ALSO WERE DISCUSSED AT THE TOP-ECHELON MEETING.

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115

341