

CN 118

EURO - DENMARK INVESTIGATING MILITARY ALARM SYSTEM

COPENHAGEN, AUG 24, REUTER--DEFENCE MINISTER ERIK NINN-HANSEN HAS STARTED AN URGENT INVESTIGATION INTO DENMARKS MILITARY ALARM SYSTEM--BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT KNEW NOTHING OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNTIL FIVE HOURS AFTER IT STARTED.

EVEN THEN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND DEFENCE CHIEFS HEARD ABOUT IT FROM REPORTERS WHO TELEPHONED THEM.

ONE REASON FOR THE LATE WARNING GIVEN TO MINISTERS WAS THAT THERE WAS NO NATO ALARM, AND THE WARNING SYSTEM IS PRIMARILY ORGANISED ON A NATO AND NOT A NATIONAL BASIS, SAID MR. NINN-HANSEN.

ONCE MINISTERS AND DEFENCE CHIEFS HEARD THE NEWS, THE MILITARY ALARM SYSTEM WORKED AS IT SHOULD, MR. NINN-HANSEN TOLD REPORTERS.

DEFENCE CHIEFS DID NOT STEP UP PREPAREDNESS, BUT AT GOVERNMENT REQUEST ALL LEAVE WAS STOPPED. THIS MEASURE IS TO CONTINUE OVER THE WEEKEND.

MD/A 1116/68/mew LZ