

CN 159

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD - PITHART-DE GAULLE (CN - 158) X X X SAID

IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, THE AMBSSADOR SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT FIRST PARTY SECRETARY ALEXANDER DUBCEK WAS BEING CONSULED IN THE CURRENT MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SVOBODA.

"AFTER PRAVDA HAS TREATED HIM AS TRAITOR, I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE TRUE THT DUBCEK PARTICIPATES IN THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS", THE AMBSSADOR SAID. "IS, HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE TRUE ALL THE SAME, IT MEANS THAT MOSCOW HAS AGREED TO A CONCESSION".

THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS STILL ABLE TO CONTACT THE PRAGUE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, DR. PITHART SAID THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD COME AS "A COMPLETE SURPRISE" FOR THE PRAGUE LEADERS.

THIS AFTERNOON, PRESIDENT DE GAULLE MEETS WITH HIS MINISTERS FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CABINET SESSION TO DISCUSS THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

AMBASSADOR PITHART SAW FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL DEBEE LAST NIGHT.

BMCG/HE /R

AUG 24

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