

X/13 -1ST ADD - FRENCH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT (CN 244) XXX MEETING

THE INFORMATION MINISTER ANNOUNED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL "PROBABLY" ANSWER TODAY THE VERBAL NOTE , GIVEN AT ABOUT ONE O CLOCK IN THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALERIAN ZORIN TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

EARLIER TODAY, CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR DR VILHELM PITHART, HAD BEEN AT THE ELYSEE PALACE FOR A 40-MINUTE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DE GAULLE.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR HAD QUOTED THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AS EXPRESSING "COMPLETE AGEEMENT" WITH CZECHOSLOVAK DEMANDS FOR THE "IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL" LIBERATION OF JAILED CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS AND FOR THE "IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WIHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

DURING THIS AFTERNOONS COUNCIL MEETING, LE THEUL SAID, SEVERAL MINISTER HAD STRESSED THAT THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MARKED THE FIRST TIME, SINCE THE END OF THE WAR, OF GERMAN TROOPS ENGAGING IN THE OCCUPATION OF FOREIGN TERRITORRY.

FRANCE, SAID THE INFORMATION MINISTER, WANTS A POLICY OF DETENT, OF COOPERATION AND ENTENTE WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE FRAME WORK FOR ITS GENE COUNCIL.

JON/HI/CR 2052/68