

CN 96

C/S - STEWART SUMMONS SOVIET AMBASSADOR

LONDON, AUG. 26, REUTER - BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART TODAY SUMMONED SOVIET AMBASSADOR MIKHAIL SMIRNOVSKY FOR A 20-MINUTE TALK ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT BRITAINS RETIRING AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW, SIR GEOFFREY HARRISON, WHO WAS RECALLED HERE FOR TALKS LAST NIGHT, WILL NOT RETURN TO MOSCOW.

SIR GEOFFREYS SUCCESSOR IN MOSCOW, SIR DUNCAN WILSON, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, WILL ARRIVE IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL SHORTLY BUT NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED.

UNTIL SIR DUNCAN ARRIVES, THE MOSCOW EMBASSY WILL BE IN THE CHARGE OF PETER DALTON.

SIR GEOFFREY TODAY GAVE STEWART A FIRST-HAND REPORT ON CZECHOSLOVAK DEVELOPMENTS.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THEN CALLED IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR.

A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID STEWART WANTED TO MEET SMIRNOVSKY BEFORE SPEAKING IN THIS AFTERNOONS EMERGENCY DEBATE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SPOKESMAN DECLINED IMMEDIATE COMMENT ON YESTERDAYS SUGGESTION BY WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR KURT-GEORG KIESINGER THAT NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD MEET TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WAKE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS.

MD/ BG/ O 1349753