

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD STEWART SUMMONS SOVIET AMBASSADOR (CN 96) XXX CRISIS

(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)-- THE SPOKESMAN DECLIN^ED TO ANSWER EITHER SPECIFIC OR GENERAL QUESTIONS ON THE MEETING AND SAID NO RPT NO DETAILS COULD BE EXPECTED BEFORE STEWARTS SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DURING THE DEBATE.

SIR GEOFFREY, THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR WHO WILL NOT BE RETURNING TO MOSCOW, HAD BEEN DUE FOR RECALL IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND IS TO BE REPLACED BY SIR DUNCAN WILSON, BUT THE FOREIGN OFFICE SAID NO RPT NO DATE FOR SIR DUNCANS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW HD HAD BEEN FIXED.

HOWEVER, THE SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO AGREE THAT THE INDEFINITE ABSENCE OF A BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW AT THIS TIME COULD BE INTERPRETED OR MEANT AS A BRITISH GESTURE OF PROTEST AGAINST THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOAKIA.

IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, THE SPOKESMAN SAID LONDON WAS IN "ALMOST CONTINUOUS CONTACT" WITH WASHINGTON OVER THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

THE SPOKESMAN HAD NO RPT NO COMMENT ON RECENT REPORTS OF TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR THE RUMANIAN BORDER, BUT SAID THESE REPORTS WOULD PROBABLY COME UP DURING THE COMMONS DEBATE.

RFE'S LONDON CORRESPONDENT POINTS OUT THAT IT IS EXTREMELY UNUSUAL FOR BRITAIN NOT RPT NOT TO BE REPRESENTED BY AN AMBASSADOR MOSCOW AT A TIME OF SUCH DIFFICULTY IN ANGLO-SOVIET RELATIONS UNLESS IT IS DELIBERATE POLICY.

BG/0/m 1441/68 AUG 26. ND