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CN 13

X/13 E/W -- 7TH ADD BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

(CN 237) XXX HURT

FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART, WINDING UP THE DEBATE, SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE MOSCOW TALKS WERE STILL PROCEEDING.

"THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS UNCONFIRMED REPORTS AS TO THE NATURE OF AN AGREEMENT THAT MIGHT EMERGE. I AM NOT IN A POSITION AT THIS TIME TO CONFIRM THESE REPORTS" HE SAID.

STEWART SAID THE SOVIET ACTION SHOWED THAT THE SOVIET VERSION OF COMMUNISM WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF STATES ALLIED TO THE SOVIET UNION.

"IT SHOWS PERHAPS MOST SERIOUS OF ALL IN THE LONG RUN THAT COMMUNISM AS THE RUSSIANS NOW PRACTISE IT AND UNDERSTAND IT IS INCAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO CHANGE, INCAPABLE OF THAT FLEXIBILITY WHICH THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE WORLD SO URGENTLY REQUIRES, OF FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF AN ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY LIKE CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

"THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATO DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE AMOUNT OF MILITARY POWER, BUT ON THE CERTAINTY THAT ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE ALLIANCE CAN ACT TOGETHER IF ATTACKED," STEWART SAID, BUT HE DID NOT THINK A CASE HAD BEEN MADE OUT FOR A "SUMMIT MEETING" BY NATO.

HE WENT ON: "IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT DEMANDS TO BLOCK ORDINARY TRADING BETWEEN US AND EASTERN EUROPE ARE NOT RELEVANT, WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AND ARE NOT IN PROPER LINE WITH OUR POLICY AT THE PRESENT TIME."

ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES STEWART SAID: "I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN. IT IS GOING TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE IMPRESSIVE STEPS FORWARD IN THIS FIELD WE HAD HOPED TO MAKE BEFORE THIS DISASTER FELL UPON EUROPE."

STEWART SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO BREAK OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. STEWART ADDED: "WE MUST PROCEED WITH THE POLICY OF SEEKING AN UNDERSTANDING IF IT CAN BE GOT WITHOUT SURRENDER OF EITHER TERRITORY, PERSONS OR PRINCIPLES".

THE DEBATE CONCLUDED.

JON/U

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