

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD DUTCH SALUTE (CN 210) XXX MESSAGE

DE JONG SAID THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAD ADOPTED A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL CZECHOSLOVAK AND SAID CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS CURRENTLY IN THE NETHERLANDS WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO LEAVE HOLLAND AGAINST THEIR WILL.

HE REGRETTED THAT THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD STALLED ALL HOPE FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE SO-CALLED GROUP OF TEN AT FOREIGN MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

(THE GROUP OF TEN WAS FORMED UNDER A 1965 UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION ON GOOD NEIGHBOR RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES. PRIME SPONSOR WAS RUMANIA AND THE GOAL WAS TO GIVE SMALL COUNTRIES A BIGGER SAY IN PROMOTING GOOD NEIGHBOR RELATIONS AMONG ALL COUNTRIES. RUMANIA, BULGARIA, HUNGARY AND YUGOSLAVIA FROM EASTERN EUROPE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND AND DENMARK FROM THE WEST, AND AUSTRIA, FINLAND AND SWEDEN FROM THE UNALIGNED BLOC FORM THE GROUP OF TEN.)

DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH LUNS HAS IN RECENT MONTHS BEEN PROVIDING THE INITIATIVE FOR PREPARING THE GROUND WORK FOR A FOREIGN MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE GROUP OF TEN -- BUT THE INFORMAL GROUP HAS NEVER MET AT ANY LEVEL WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT AT ANY ONE TIME.

LUNS HAD BEEN PROMOTING THE MINISTERIAL MEETING DURING VISITS TO YUGOSLAVIA, HUNGARY, RUMANIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN RECENT MONTHS. HE WAS TO HAVE VISITED BULGARIA THIS SUMMER AND WAS EXPECTED TO PRESS THE SUBJECT THERE.

"DEEPENING THESE CONTACTS AND EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE SMALLER NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE WORLD SITUATION HAS NOW BEEN BROUGHT TO A HALT," DE JONG TOLD PARLIAMENT.

BG/A/1703/68 AUG 27 N