

CN 194

C/S - 1ST ADD LUNS CALLS FOR NATO (CN 193) XXX EUROPE

DR. LUNS, WHO FLIES BACK TO ROTTERDAM TONIGHT AFTER TWO-DAY VISIT TO BRITAIN, WAS SPEAKING AFTER AN HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART.

IT WAS MAINLY DEVOTED TO BRITAIN'S APPLICATION TO JOIN THE COMMON MARKET.

DR. LUNS, ASKED WHEN HE WOULD REGARD THE PRESENT SOVIET TROOP DISPOSITIONS AS PERMANENT, REPLIED: "LET US SAY IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WEEKS BUT AFTER SOME MONTHS, AND IT DEPENDS ALSO ON HOW THE BUILD-UP PROCEEDS.

ASKED HOW FAR THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS LIKELY TO IMPAIR EAST-WEST RAPPROCHEMENT, HE SAID IT HAD DESTROYED A LOT OF THE CREDIBILITY.

"WE DO NOT KNOW HOW FAR THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, APART FROM RUSSIA, ARE PREPARED, ARE WILLING, ARE ABLE TO TRAVEL ALONG THAT ROAD."

DR. LUNS ALSO SAID HE TOLD MR. STEWART THAT THE BENELUX PLAN FOR CLOSER POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES, PENDING FULL BRITISH MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WOULD BE TAKEN UP AGAIN IN COMMON MARKET MEETINGS.

ASB/E 1855/68 AUG 30/CR Z