

CN 10

CURT -- JOHNSON WARNS OF FURTHER SOVIET ACTION

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AUG. 31 (AGENCIES)--PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAID LAST NIGHT HE HAD HEARD RUMOURS THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MIGHT BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE IN EASTERN EUROPE.

THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD FOLLOWED THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH A HEAVY HEART.

HE DECLARED THAT THERE MUST BE NO RETURN TO A WORLD OF UNBRIDLED AGGRESSION.

"LET NO ONE UNLEASH THE DOGS OF WAR," HE SAID.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, MAKING HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE VICE-PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY WON THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION, WAS SPEAKING TO THE MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION -- A REGIONAL MARKETING COOPERATIVE -- HERE.

MR. JOHNSON SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT MOSCOWS LEADERS FELT THREATENED BY EVEN THE EMERGENCE OF A MODEST AMOUNT OF FREEDOM, AS HAD BEEN SHOWN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE SOVIETS HAD APPLIED THEIR MILITARY POWER AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TONIGHT HUNDREDS OF TANKS SURROUNDED PRAGUE, THE CAPITAL, HE SAID.

"THERE HAVE BEEN RUMOURS LATE TONIGHT THAT THIS ACTION MIGHT BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE IN THE DAYS AHEAD IN EASTERN EUROPE," MR JOHNSON STATED.

"WE CANNOT, AND WE MUST NOT, IN THE YEAR 1968 RETURN TO A WORLD OF UNBRIDLED AGGRESSION," HE SAID.

(MORE) MD/F 0355/68 +

W