

CN 15

CURT -- 2ND ADD JOHNSON WARNS... (CN 11) XXX SAID

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN GEORGE CHRISTIAN SAID THE PRESIDENT RECEIVED SEPARATE TELEPHONE REPORTS FROM SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK AND WALT ROSTOW HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS MOMENTS BEFORE HE LEFT THE LBJ RANCH BY HELICOPTER TO FLY TO SAN ANTONIO. HE ALSO RECEIVED A REPORT FROM DEFENCE SECRETARY CLARK CLIFFORD, RELAYED BY MR. ROSTOW.

HERE IS THE FULLEST AVAILABLE QUOTE ON HIS REMARKS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

(UPI/REUTER)-MR JOHNSON SAID HE HAD FOLLOWED THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS "WITH A HEAVY HEART."

"IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT THE LEADERS IN MOSCOW HAVE FELT THAT THEIR INTERESTS WERE THREATENED BY THE EMERGENCE OF EVEN MODEST DEGREES OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN LIBERTY IN EASTERN EUROPE," THE PRESIDENT SAID.

"IN A TRAGIC MOVE THEY HAVE APPLIED THE FULL MEASURE OF MILITARY POWER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHERE TONIGHT HUNDREDS OF TANKS SURROUND THAT CAPITAL.

(EDS: NOTE THE MINOR DIFFERENCES FROM CN 10'S VERSION IN THE FIRST PHRASE OF THE NEXT QUOTE)

"THERE ARE EVEN RUMOURS LATE THIS EVENING THAT THIS ACTION MIGHT BE REPEATED ELSEWHERE IN THE DAYS AHEAD IN EASTERN EUROPE.

"SO I SAY TO YOU TONIGHT AND TO THE WORLD TONIGHT, WE CAN NOT AND WE MUST NOT IN THE YEAR 1968 RETURN TO A WORLD OF UNBRIDLED AGGRESSION."

BMCG/F 0558/68 AUG 31

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