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CS -- C/S MENTIONED IN DE-COLONIZATION COMMITTEE

P4 UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, AUG 31 - (RFE SPECIAL, ENDRST)--
SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS BRIEFLY DEBATED IN THE
U.N. DE-COLONIZATION COMMITTEE HERE FRIDAY. THE SOVIET DELEGATE,
HOWEVER, REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO THE DISCUSSION.

THE PRINCIPLE DEFENSE OF SOVIET BLOC DE-COLONIZATION EFFORTS
WAS OFFERED BY DIMITER SABEV OF BULGARIA.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE 24-MEMBER GROUP.
POLAND IS ON THE COMMITTEE BUT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATE
FRIDAY.

THE COMMITTEE'S NOMINAL PURPOSE WAS DE-COLONIZATION OF TERRITORIES
UNDER ADMINISTRATION OF PORTUGAL, RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

AT FIRST, SIERRA LEONE STUCK TO THIS SUBJECT AND ACCUSED
BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, PORTUGAL
AND SPAIN OF CONTINUING TO "WITHHOLD RESPONSIBILITIES OF SELF-
GOVERNMENT FROM PEOPLE OVER WHICH THEY HAD RESPONSIBILITY."

AUSTRALIA THEN MADE A REFERENCE TO THE FACT
THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATE HAD CHOSEN NOT TO COMMENT FRIDAY, SAYING
THAT "THE WELLS OF ELOQUENCE HAVE DRIED UP." AUSTRALIA SUGGESTED
THAT THE DE-COLONIZATION COMMITTEE WHICH HAD TWICE CANCELED
ITS SCHEDULED MEETINGS DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
CRISIS, MET FRIDAY IN ORDER TO AVOID "LOOKING SILLY AND HAVING
TO ADJOURN YET ANOTHER MEETING."

(MORE) BMCG/F 0653/68

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