

CN 141

X/13 CS - BRANDT SEES MAJOR CONFLICT IF SOVIETS EXTEND INVASION

BONN, SEPT 1 REUTER - WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT WARNED TODAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CAUSE A MAJOR CONFLICT WERE IT TO EXTEND THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA INTO THE WEST.

EARLIER TODAY WEST GERMAN INTERIOR MINISTER ERNST BENDA SAID A SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION IN WEST GERMANY WOULD LEAD TO ARMED REACTION FROM THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO).

CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER ALSO CALLED ON RUSSIA TO A BANDON WHAT HE TERMED ITS NEAR-DESPERATE POLICY OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

HERR BRANDT ANNOUNCED THAT WEST GERMANY WAS NOT RPT NOT LIKELY TO SIGN AT PRESENT THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH WEST GERMAN TELEVISION, RECORDED IN GENEVA, HERR BRANDT SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE MENACING SITUATION IN RUMANIA, A MAJORITY COULD NOT BE RPT NOT BE FOUND IN BONN AT PRESENT TO SIGN THE TREATY WHICH THE BIG POWERS EXPECT WEST GERMANY TO RATIFY.

IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW, WITH THE SOUTH WEST GERMAN RADIO STATION, HERR BRANDT WARNED THAT THE SOUTH-EAST OF EUROPE WAS NOT RPT NOT YET OUT OF DANGER AND ADDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CAUSE A MAJOR CONFLICT IF IT WERE TO EXTEND ITS INVASION INTO THE WEST.

(DPA/END) HE SAID: "I WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF FURTHER ACTS OF FORCE COULD BE AVOIDED."

(MORE)

BG/HI

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