

CN 142

X/13 CS -1ST ADD BRANDT SEES MAJOR (CN 141) XXX AVOIDED

(REUTER) THOUGH WEST BERLIN WAS NOT RPT NOT REALLY A TERRITORY OF NATO IT WAS, HOWEVER, PROTECTED BY THREE WESTERN ALLIES -- BRITAIN, FRANCE

AND THE UNITED STATES, HERR BRANDT SAID. AN ATTACK ON WEST BERLIN WOULD PARTICULARLY CHALLENGE THE UNITED STATES, HERR BRANDT SAID.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE BELIEVED A NEW SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WAS BEGINNING.

"I THINK I WOULD BE VERY WRONG IF MANIPULATIONS AND FORGERIES ARE NOT ALREADY UNDER WAY TO PROVE THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC - IN THE SOVIET VIEW -- IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT AHPPENED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA," HE SAID.

(GND/MACDONALD) IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HAMBURG NEWSPAPER WELT AM SONNTAG PUBLISHED TODAY, FINANCE MINISTER FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS SAID THAT MOSCOW INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THREE REASONS:

--CONSCIOUSNESS OF "THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF COMBINING COMMUNISM WITH FREEDOM;"

-- MAINTENANCE OF THE STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT POSITION OF BOHEMIA FOR THE WARSAW PACT AND

-- TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEIR ALLIES THAT NO-ONE COULD HELP THEM.

STRUASS SAID THAT THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD INCREASED THE MILITARY THREAT TO WEST EUROPE. HE URGED THAT THE WHOLE MILITARY AND POLITICAL SITUATION OF NATO SHOULD NOW BE REVIEWED WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THE WEST GERMAN-FRENCH DIALOGUE SHOULD BE STEPPED UP.

BG/ASB/EH/HI

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