

X/4 C/S - TASS KILLS ENVOY'S CRITICISM OF YUGOSLAVIA

MUNICH, SEPT 2 (CMD) - THE RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE SERVICE OF THE SOVIET NEWSAGENCY TASS TODAY KILLED IMMEDIATELY AFTER TRANSMISSION A STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE CRITICISING YUGOSLAVIA FOR ITS ATTITUDE ON THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE STATEMENT WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN READ TO YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT JOSIP BROZ TITO ON AUGUST 30 BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, IVAN ALEKSANROVICH BENEDIKTOV, ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

THE ENGLISH SERVICE OF TASS PUBLISHED ONLY THE SLUG: "STATEMENT BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN YUGOSLAVIA" AND TWO LINES OF TEXT, IDLED FOR SIX MINUTES, AND THEN KILLED THE ITEM.

THE RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE REPORT SAID (TEXT):

MOSCOW, 2 SEPT -- IT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HERE:

"ON 30 AUGUST THE USSR AMBASSADOR IN YUGOSLAVIA I.A. BENEDIKTOV CALLED ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE YUGOSLAV LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS, PRESIDENT BROZ TITO, IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNFRIENDLY POSITION TAKEN BY YUGOSLAVIA TOWARD THE COLLECTIVE ACTION OF FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN RENDERING AID TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND, ON BEHALF OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, MADE A STATEMENT, WHICH SAYS AMONG OTHER THINGS:

"THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ARE EXTREMELY SURPRISED AT THE FACT THAT THE LEADERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE YUGOSLAV LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE SOLIDARIZED THEMSELVES WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE TAKING MEASURES DIRECTED TOWARD AN ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR THE ANTISOCIALIST FORCES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ATTEMPTING TO SLANDER THE INTERNATIONALIST ACTIONS OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES RENDERING AID TO THE FRATERNAL CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE. (MORE) RE/TB/HE 1955/68

(ppw) HB