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E/W A SOVIET AMBASSADOR SEES HARMEL

BRUSSELS, SEPT. 3, REUTER--SOVIET AMBASSADOR VASSILI GROUBIAKOV TOLD BELGIUMS FOREIGN MINISTER M. PIERRE HARMEL, AT A MEETING HERE LAST NIGHT THAT RECENT "FRENZIED ACTIVITY BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION IS REGRETTABLE."

A BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED TODAY THAT THIS WAS THE SOVIET ENVOYS ~~CLOSING~~ REMARK AFTER A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH M.HARMEL.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER REPLIED "I PREFER THE SOUND OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN DIPLOMATS TO THAT OF ARMIES ON THE MARCH.

MR. GROUBIAKOV CALLED ON M. HARMEL TO OUTLINE HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

COMMENTING ON THE NATO DISCUSSIONS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID BELGIUM FELT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO CONCLUDE WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MEET THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE INVASION.

BUT M. HARMEL BELIEVED THERE SHOULD BE A STRENGTHENING OF WESTERN EUROPE AS A RESULT OF THE CRISIS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

"IT IS THE ONLY METHOD OF DISSIPATING THE FEELING OF IMPOTENCE INTO WHICH THIS CRISIS HAS PLUNGED US," HE QUOTED HARMEL AS SAYING.

JON/L 1955/68

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