

CN 158

X/4 C/S -- SOVIET STATEMENT TO WESTERN GOVERNMENTS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MUNICH, SEPT. 3 (CMD) -- SOVIET AMBASSADORS IN SEVERAL WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DELIVERED OFFICIAL MESSAGES FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS DURING THE WEEKEND AND TODAY ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

THE LATEST MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED TO BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE HARMEL THIS MORNING BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR VASIL CRUBIAKOV. A BELGIAN SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS SIMILAR TO OTHERS DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, HOLLAND AND LUXEMBOURG.

NO DETAILS OF THE SOVIET STATEMENT WERE AVAILABLE, BUT A BELGIAN SPOKESMAN SAID THIS AFTERNOON THAT IT WAS "CHIEFLY A DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET POSITION."

GRUIAKOV ALSO SAID IT WAS "REGRETTABLE" THAT THERE HAD BEEN WHAT HE TERMED "FRENZIED ACTIVITY" WITHIN THE NATO COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS OVER THE OCCUPATION, THE SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED.

HARMEL REPLIED THAT IN FACT THERE HAD BEEN NO MORE THAN A "PERFECTLY NORMAL" STUDY OF THE SITUATION, AND POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO NATO TROOP MOVEMENTS.

IN LONDON, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR MIKHAIL SMIRKOVSKY, AND BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART, TOUCHED ON CZECHOSLOVAK AFFAIRS IN A 15-MINUTE DISCUSSION THIS AFTERNOON LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE SPACE RESCUE AGREEMENT.

THE SOVIET STATEMENT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS DELIVERED TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE BY SMIRNOVSKY ON SATURDAY.

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