

CN 164

C/S - SECOND ADD - SOVIET STATEMENT (CN 159) XXX UNFOUNDED

(RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK):- IN BRUSSELS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR VASIL GRUBIAKOV CALLED ON BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE HARMEL MONDAY AFTERNOON AND DELIVERED, AT THE INSTRUCTION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, A STATEMENT WHICH A BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED AS "AN EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE REST OF EASTERN EUROPE AFTER THE MOSCOW TALKS."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS SIMILAR TO SOVIET MESSAGES DELIVERED TO OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PAST WEEKEND. THE BELGIAN OFFICIAL SAID IT WAS MAINLY "A DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET POSITION."

HARMEL TOLD GRUBIAKOV THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS "DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE REST OF EASTERN EUROPE."

GRUBIAKOV, ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN, ALSO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE "FRENZIED ACTIVITY" WITHIN THE NATO COUNCIL, LOCATED HERE IN BRUSSELS, SINCE THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE SOVIET DIPLOMAT TERMED THIS "REGRETABLE."

HARMEL COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS "PERFECTLY NORMAL FOR NATO OFFICIALS TO STUDY THE SITUATION, WHICH INVOLVES VAST TROOP MOVEMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. HARMEL POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO RPT NO NATO TROOP MOVEMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT BUILD-UP IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT ONLY A SERIES OF DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS.

IN THE HAGUE, DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH LUNS RECEIVED SOVIET AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR S. LAVROV THIS MORNING. A DUTCH FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE VISIT WAS AT THE REQUEST OF THE SOVIET ENVOY WHO PRESENTED A STATEMENT SIMILAR TO THAT RECEIVED BY OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.

LAVROV TOLD LUNS HE HOPED THAT THE CURRENT GOOD RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS AND THE SOVIET UNION COULD BE CONTINUED.

LUNS TOLD LAVROV THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WAS "EARNESTLY CONCERNED" ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS DECLINED TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON THE MEETING.

A SOVIET DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE DELIVERED A SIMILAR STATEMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE GREGOIRE IN LUXEMBOURG MONDAY AFTERNOON. A SPOKESMAN DECLINED ALL COMMENT.

JON/HI

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