

CN 168

X/13 E/W -- U.S. ACCEPTS SOVIET DENIAL ON RUMANIA

P-4 WASHINGTON, SEPT 3 (RFE SPECIAL/ HILL) THE UNITED STATES HAS ACCEPTED A DENIAL BY THE SOVIET UNION OF "REPORTS AND RUMORS" THAT IT INTENDS TO INVADE RUMANIA.

OFFICIALS HERE, IN SAYING THIS, ADDED THAT THEY "HESITATE" TO CONSTRUE THE SOVIET DENIAL AS AN "ASSURANCE" OR A "COMMITMENT" NOT TO INVADE. THEY DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT "FOR THE PRESENT WE DON'T SENSE ANY GREAT PASSION IN THAT (RUMANIAN) SITUATION".

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN CALLED ON SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK SATURDAY EVENING AT THE SECRETARY'S RESIDENCE IN WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR INFORMED RUSK "THAT RUMORS OF POSSIBLE SOVIET MOVEMENTS AGAINST RUMANIA WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION", MCCLOSKEY SAID .

ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY "SOCIAL ACTIVITY" CONNECTED WITH THE VISIT, MCCLOSKEY SAID: "I SHOULD THINK NOT."

IT WAS THE SECOND TIME IN 24 HOURS THAT DOBRYNIN HAD CALLED ON RUSK. THE FIRST VISIT , FRIDAY EVENING, CAME AFTER AN APPOINTMENT REQUESTED BY THE AMBASSADOR FOR SATURDAY MORNING HAD BEEN MOVED UP AT RUSK'S REQUEST. THE SECRETARY TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR OF THE SUBSTANCE OF COMMENTS PRESIDENT JOHNSON WOULD INCLUDE IN A SPEECH IN TEXAS THAT SAME EVENING .

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