

CN 26

X/13 C/S - SOVIET DENIAL ON RUMANIA ACCEPTED FOR THE MOMENT

(SUPERSEDES CN 168 OF 2/9)

WASHINGTON, SEPT 4 (RFE SPECIAL) STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAY THAT THE U.S. HAS ACCEPTED FOR THE MOMENT A DENIAL BY THE SOVIET UNION OF "REPORTS AND RUMORS" THAT IT INTENDS TO INVADE RUMANIA.

THE OFFICIALS ADDED THAT THEY HESITATED TO CONSTRUE THE SOVIET DENIAL AS AN "ASSURANCE" OR A "COMMITMENT" NOT TO INVADE.

THE OFFICIALS SAID, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE PRESENT THEY DID NOT DETECT "ANY GREAT PASSION" IN THE RUMANIAN SITUATION.

ONE OFFICIAL SAID "FOR THE MOMENT WE HAVE ACCEPTED THE STATEMENT OF THE (RUSSIAN) AMBASSADOR (DOBRYNIN) THAT THE RUMORS OR REPORTS OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS AGAINST RUMANIA ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

THE OFFICIAL SAID IN REPLY TO A QUESTION THAT IT COULD BE ACCEPTED THAT THERE WERE NO "ALARMING MOVEMENTS" AT PRESENT.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN CALLED ON SECRETARY OF STATE RUSK SATURDAY EVENING AND TOLD HIM THAT "RUMORS OF POSSIBLE SOVIET MOVEMENTS AGAINST RUMANIA WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

IT WAS THE SECOND TIME IN 24 HOURS THAT DOBRYNIN HAD CALLED ON RUSK. THE EARLIER VISIT, ON FRIDAY EVENING, CAME AFTER RUSK ASKED THAT AN APPOINTMENT REQUESTED BY DOBRYNIN FOR SATURDAY MORNING SHOULD BE MOVED UP.

RUSK TOLD DOBRYNIN OF THE SUBSTANCE OF COMMENTS PRESIDENT JOHNSON INTENDED TO INCLUDE IN A SPEECH IN TEXAS THAT SAME EVENING.

(MORE) BMCG/LA 1005/68 *1005* *K*