

CS - CLIFFORD: U.S. PRESENCE IN EUROPE NECESSARY

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 5, REUTER U.S. DEFENCE SECRETARY CLARK M. CLIFFORD SAID TODAY THAT RUSSIAN INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA PROVES THAT A "SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN WESTERN EUROPE IS STILL NEEDED."

AMERICAS LONG-RANGE HOPES FOR PEACE AND FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE "REST IN THE CONTINUED MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE U.S.," HE TOLD A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

"THE DEVELOPMENTS OF THESE LAST FEW DAYS CONFIRM THE FACT THAT, WHEN AND IF WE NEGOTIATE (WITH RUSSIA), SAFETY AND SUCCESS DEMAND THAT WE NEGOTIATE FROM STRENGTH," HE DECLARED.

MR. CLIFFORD ADDED: "WE SHOULD NOT, IN MY VIEW, BE LED BY NATO SUCCESS INTO THE DELUSION THAT A STRONG U.S. MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO NATO IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.

"SOME HAD THOUGHT, AND THERE HAD BEEN SOME SIGNS THAT JUSTIFIED SUCH THINKING, THAT TODAYS SOVIET UNION WAS A FAR BETTER NEIGHBOUR THAN THE SOVIET UNION OF THE LATE 1940S.

"THE EVENTS OF THE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, I SUBMIT, HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT A SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN WESTERN EUROPE IS STILL NEEDED.

"AT THE SAME TIME, OUR NATO ALLIES SURELY MUST REVIEW THESE EVENTS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE EFFECT UPON OUR COMMON SECURITY."

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