

CN 176

X/13 E/W -- BRANDT: STILL READY TO TALK TO MOSCOW (W/CN 155)

MUNICH, SEPT 5 (GND/MACDONALD) - FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT SAID HERE TONIGHT THAT WEST GERMANY WAS STILL READY TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT SOVIET CAMPAIGN AGAINST BONN, WEST GERMANS MUST EXPECT SUCH TALKS TO BE MORE PROLONGED AND OF A MORE DIFFICULT NATURE.

BRANDT POINTED OUT THAT CONTACTS WITH MOSCOW WERE CONTINUING AND CITED AS EXAMPLES TWO MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS BETWEEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR SEMYON ZARAPKIN AND CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SPEAKING AT THE MUNICH INTERNATIONAL PRESS CLUB.

HE SAID THAT, EVEN IF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD STOPPED THE DEVELOPMENT OF "REFORM COMMUNISM" FOR THE TIME BEING, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT MOSCOW WOULD HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN ITS POWER SPHERE IN THE COMING YEARS - "ALSO IN THE COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK PART IN THE INTERVENTION AND IN THE SOVIET UNION ITSELF".

BRANDT SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES IN THE KREMLIN, BUT HE RECALLED THAT NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV HAD SUFFERED A SET-BACK WHEN HIS CUBAN ADVENTURE IN OCT 1962 HAD THREATENED WORLD PEACE.

"THIS LED TO THE FACT THAT THE CHINESE QUITE RIGHTLY CONDEMNED HIM AS AN ADVENTURER," BRANDT SAID.

KHRUSHCHEV, HE POINTED OUT, WAS REPLACED IN 1964.

(MORE)

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