

CN 138

X/13 E/W --LUNS: DETENTE STOPPED BY CZECHOSLOVAK OCCUPATION

THE HAGUE, SEPT. 9 (RFE SPECIAL/JM/RD) -- DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH LUNS TODAY SAID THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS STOPPED THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.

IN AN INTERVIEW, LUNS EXPRESSED "SHOCK AND DISMAY" AT THE AUGUST 21 OCCUPATION.

"THE BALANCE OF POWER HAS CHANGED," HE SAID, SPEAKING OF THE SOVIET TROOPS NOW OCCUPYING CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"THE PROCESS OF DETENTE HAS STOPPED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, PERHAPS FOR GOOD, ALTHOUGH I HOPE NOT."

LUNS HAD BEEN ONE OF WESTERN EUROPE'S MOST ACTIVE PROMOTERS OF DETENTE THROUGH A RAPID SERIES OF VISITS TO EAST EUROPEAN CAPITALS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF. HE MADE OFFICIAL VISITS TO WARSAW, BUDAPEST, PRAGUE, AND BELGRADE DURING THE LAST 18 MONTHS. PRIOR TO THAT HE HAD ALSO VISITED MOSCOW AND BUCHAREST. HE HAD PLANNED A VISIT TO SOFIA THIS YEAR, BUT PLANS FOR THAT TRIP HAVE NOW BEEN SHELVED INDEFINITELY.

LUNS SAID HOLLAND WAS REDUCING ITS CONTACTS WITH THE FIVE WARSAW PACT NATIONS INVOLVED IN THE OCCUPATION. TWO PARLIAMENTARY VISITS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND HE DISCLOSED TODAY THAT A PLANNED VISIT OF A SOVIET NAVAL CONTINGENT TO AMSTERDAM LATE THIS MONTH HAD ALSO BEEN CANCELLED.

HE ADDED THAT ECONOMIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST HAD SLOWED DOWN BECAUSE OF THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

(MORE) BG/L

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