

CN 131

X/13 CURT -- 1ST ADD BELGIAN SUGGESTS (CN 130) X X X REPRESENTATIVES."

THE BELGIAN SPOKESMAN SUGGESTED THAT MINISTERIAL PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL SESSIONS COULD TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

(THIS IDEA WAS CONSIDERED BY NATO SOURCES AS BEING POSSIBLE, BUT THE SOURCES ADDED THAT IF A MINISTERIAL JUDGMENT ON THE MATTER WERE DESIRED, THE TIME WOULD BE TOO SHORT TO COMPLETE THE THOROUGH RE-ASSESSMENT OF NATO DEFENSE STRATEGY.

(IT IS GENERALLY CONCEDED AMONG NATO OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS THAT A MINISTERIAL SESSION OF SOME SORT -- EITHER FOREIGN OR DEFENSE -- WILL BE HELD, PROBABLY IN LATE OCTOBER TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN THE WAKE OF CZECHOSLOVAK DEVELOPMENTS.)

THE BELGIAN SPOKESMAN ADMITTED TODAY THERE WERE "ALL SORTS OF IDEAS IN THIS FIELD" BEING DISCUSSED. "WE ONLY DESIRE TO PUT FORTH OUR SUGGESTION, WHICH WE FEEL IS A SOUND ONE," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL SESSIONS, SUCH AS THAT BELGIUM HAD SUGGESTED WOULD NATURALLY HAVE TO BE HELD IN ADDITION TO THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED DECEMBER MEETING OF FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS HERE.

PRW/LA 1754/68

SEPT 10 / *ASB A*