

C/S JOHNSON: CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOWS LONG ROAD TO PEACE

NEW ORLEANS, SEPT 10, (REUTER/CNR) U.S. PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON SAID TONIGHT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOWED THAT INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY ARE STILL UNDER CHALLENGE.

JOHNSON SAID THAT THE EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE "MAKE IT CLEAR -- WITH THE FORCE OF STEEL -- THAT WE ARE STILL A LONG WAY FROM THE KIND OF PEACEFUL WORLD WE ALL WISH TO SEE.

"THE MESSAGE OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS PLAIN. THE INDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS AND THE LIBERTY OF MEN ARE STILL UNDER CHALLENGE, AND THE FREE PARTS OF THE WORLD WILL SURVIVE ONLY IF THEY ARE CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING THEIR STRENGTH AND BUILDING THEIR UNITY."

JOHNSON'S COMMENTS WERE IN A SPEECH TO THE AMERICAN LEGION IN NEW ORLEANS.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAID THE FIRST IMPERATIVE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE WAS THAT "THE UNITED STATES MUST REMAIN THE STRONGEST NATION IN THE WORLD."

HE CONTINUED: "I HAVE TRIED TO TAKE STEPS, EVEN SMALL ONES, THAT WOULD MOVE US TOWARD MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST NATIONS.

"WE SHALL CONTINUE THAT PROGRESS IN EVERY HONOURABLE WAY OPEN TO US. WORLD SAFETY DEMANDS THAT THE TWO GREATEST POWERS REDUCE, IF POSSIBLE, THE TENSIONS THAT HAVE HELD MANKIND IN MORTAL BONDAGE FOR A GENERATION." N

DMA/HI

1945/68