TATES OF AREA

## · Department of State

TELEGRAM

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DRAFTED BY: EUR/EE: MAWENICK
APPROVED BY: EUR/EE - RAYMOND E. LISLE
EUR - MR. SPRINGSTEEN
S/S - MR. BROWN
WHITE HOUSE - MR. NEWMAN

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R 310113Z DEC 68 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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1. PLEASE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING NEW YEARS'S MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT SVOBODA AND PREMIER CERNIK: BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW YEAR, I EXTEND PERSONAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE IN 1969.

IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE NEW YEAR WILL SEE GREATER
TRANSQUILITY IN THE WORLD AND A CONTINUED GROWTH OF UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. SINCERELY,
LYNDON B. JOHNSON END QUOTE. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. PREMIER: I
EXPRESS TO YOU AND TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE CORDIAL GREETINGS
AND BEST WISHES FOR PEACE, HAPPINESS, AND PROSPERITY IN THE
NEW YEAR. IT IS MY HOPE THAT 1969 WILL SEE A STRENGTHENING OF
PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. SINCERELY, LYNDON
B. JOHNSON END QUOTE.

2. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN TO PUBLISH BUT HAS NO OBJECTION SHOULD RECIPIENTS WISH TO DO SO. IF RECIPIENTS PLAN TO PUBLISH, WOULD APPRECIATE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS NOTICE SO WHITE HOUSE MAY ARRANGE FOR JOINT RELEASE IF DESIRED.

3. DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. RUSK