



Department of State

Ecuador 231
TELEGRAM

3/

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05992 230840Z

14

ACTION ARA 16

INFO EUR 15, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12, SAH 02, SAL 01, SA 01, IO 13,

ACDA 16, RSR 01, SR 01, NIC 01, EA 10, /147 W

P R 222113Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4620

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SUBJ: REACTION TO INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. PRINCIPAL NEWSPAPERS ON BOTH AUGUST 21 AND 22 GAVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE INVASION CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY USSR AND ALIES. EL COMERCIO ALSO RAN FULL TEXT PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S AUGUST 21 STATEMENT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED RELEASE AUGUST 21 WHICH STATED THAT INVADERS HAD NO RIGHT USE FORCE IMPOSE PREDETERMINED POLITICAL IDEOLOGY AND CONDEMNED INTERVENTION AS TOTALLY CONTRARY ELEMENTAL PRINCIPLES INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. HOUSE DEPUTIES IN EVENING SESSION ON AUGUE 21 APPROVED RESOLUTION WHICH DENOUNCED INVASION AS VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH CZECH PEOPLE. SENATE SAME NIGHT UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED STRONGER RESOLUTION WHICH NOTED THIS AGRESSION AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT COMMUNIST IMPERIALISM REPRESENTS PERMANENT AGRESSION AGAINST

HUMAN RIGHTS, RECALLED HUNGARY, CALLED FOR PROMPT

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

41

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PAGE 02 QUITO 05992 230840Z

LIBERATION CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND ASKED THAT ITS VIEWS BE TRANSMITTED BY FONMIN TO ECUADOREAN DELEGATION IN U.N.

4. TWO EL COMERCIO EDITORIALS CONDEMNED AGGRESSION, COMPARED IT TO NAZI TACTICS, CITED HYPOCRITICAL SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, LISTED HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS ELOQUENT TESTIMONY

TO SOVIET IMPERIALISM, AND SPECULATED THAT ACTION WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE. EDITORIALS IN EL TELEGRAFO, EL UNIVERSO, AND ULTIMAS NOTICIAS TOOK SIMILAR LINE.

5. COMMENT: SEVERAL LEFTISTS IN LOWER HOUSE USED ISSUE TO TALK OUT AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM, AND TRIED--UNSUCCESSFULLY--TO INCLUDE IN RESOLUTION PROTEST RE USG AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM. NEVERTHELESS AGGRESSION HAS AROUSED GENERALIZED INDIGNATION. EDITORIAL ATTACKS CONDEMNING SOVIET ACTS EXPECTED CONTINUE SEVERAL DAYS, WITH JURIDICAL ASPECTS--IN ACCORDANCE STANDING GOE POLICY IMPOSED BY PROBLEM BORDER WITH PERU--PREDOMINATING.

GP-2, CROWLEY

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