



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 644

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ACTION EUR 20

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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
RXCAB/SACLANT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW UNN
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE UNN

~~SECRET~~ REYKJAVIK 648

SUBJ: GOI REACTION TO CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION

REF: A) STATE 224674; B) STATE 224690; C) REYKJAVIK 646

1. EMBOFF BRIEFED TOMAS TOMASSON CHIEF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION
AFTERNOON AUGUST 21 IN ACCORDANCE REFERENCE (B) AND FURNISHED
HIM COPIES NOTE CONTAINED REF (A). TOMASSON SAID SOVIETS HAD
NOT RPT NOT COMMUNICATED NOTE TO GOI.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

State Dept. Guidelines

By sl/abm NARA, Date 4-18-06



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2. TOMASSON THEN PROVIDED US COPY OF STATEMENT WHICH CABINET LATE TODAY AGREED WOULD BE ISSUED. UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

A. "THE GOVERNMENT HAS AT ITS MEETING TODAY CONCLUDED AS FOLLOWS:

B. "THE GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS STRONGLY THE MILITARY OCCUPATION AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND GIVES EXPRESSION FURTHERMORE OF ITS DEEP SYMPATHY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATION AND REGRETS AS WELL THE SETBACK WHICH EFFORTS TO LESSEN WORLD TENSIONS HAS SUFFERED BY THESE UNJUSTIFIABLE ACTS."

3. TOMASSON HAD EARLIER INDICATED CABINET WAS THEN CONSIDERING QUESTION IN LIGHT ACTION TAKEN BY OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES.

4. DESPITE STRONG ICELANDIC PUBLIC REACTION TO INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA (REF C) IT SEEMS LIKELY GOI WILL BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT ANY OFFICIAL ACTION STRONGER THAN ABOVE STATEMENT. SITUATION IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR THEM AT MOMENT BECAUSE OF ICELANDIC ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THIS COUNTRY'S LARGE DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET MARKET FOR FISH. CONVERSATION AT GOI LUNCH TODAY FOR SACLANT AT WHICH THREE MINISTERS PRESENT SHOWED DISAGREEMENT AMONG THEM, PRESUMABLY REFLECTING ATTITUDES TAKEN DURING MORNING CABINET MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT. JUSTICE MINISTER (INDEPENDENCE PARTY) INDICATED HIS DISSATISFACTION GOI HAD NOT RPT NOT SHOWED ITS DISPLEASURE OVER CZECH INVASION IN CURRENT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET DELEGATION HERE, WHILE FOREIGN AND COMMERCE MINISTERS (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS) SAID THAT FISH SALES WERE MORE IMPORTANT TO ICELAND AND THAT AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REACHED WITH SOVIET DELEGATION ON FAVORABLE TERMS.

GP-1. HENRY

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