



# Department of State

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 25, USIA 12, NSA 02, ACDA 16, IO 13, NIC 01, SA 01, SAH 02, SAL 01,

SR 01, E 15, RSR 01, /143 W  
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R 251200Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7977  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
USUN NEWYORK 363

UNCLAS ROME 7904

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI MADE STATEMENT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA AUGUST 24 BEFORE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF SENATE WILL MEET AUGUST 26 TO HEAR MEDICI, AND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT WILL CONVENE AUGUST 29. (CONSTITUTION PROVIDES EITHER HOUSE CAN BE CALLED INTO EXTRAORDINARY SESSION AT REQUEST ONE-THIRD OF MEMBERS; OTHER CHAMBER IS THEREBY ALSO AUTOMATICALLY CONVENED. PRESENT REQUEST CAME FROM 211 CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.)

2. IN HIS AUGUST 24 STATEMENT THE FOREIGN MINISTER REFERRED TO MINISTER MAZZA'S AND PRIME MINISTER'S EXCHANGES WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR, AS WELL AS TO HIS OWN MEETINGS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR AND CHIEFS OF MISSION OF FRANCE, US, FRG, UK, DENMARK, AND NETHERLANDS. HE ALSO RECALLED AUGUST 22 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS STATEMENT. HE SAID SOVIET AGGRESSION HAD VIOLATED NUMEROUS ACCORDS TO WHICH USSR WAS PARTY, INCLUDING

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WARSAW PACT; INVASION WAS IN OPEN CONTRAST TO PREAMBULAR PARA 12 OF NPT CALLING ON SIGNATORIES TO REFRAIN FROM THREATS AND USE OF FORCE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SITUATION HAD LED ITALY TO POSTPONE SIGNING NPT.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID SITUATION MOST AFFECTED AND CONCERNED ITALY IN FIELD OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. GOVERNMENT BELIEVED INTERVENTION HAD DEALT HARD BLOW TO DETENTE AND HAD DESTROYED THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF TRUST. HASTY CONCLUSIONS SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN; POSITIONS AND ACTIONS SHOULD BE COORDINATED AMONG COUNTRIES OF FREE WORLD. CAREFUL RE-EXAMINATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH ALLIES, SHOULD BE MADE OF ENTIRE POLICY OF RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE. IDEAS OF NEW "EUROPEAN SECURITY" PROGRAMS LEADING TO "DOING AWAY WITH BLOCS" WERE BADLY SHAKEN.

4. MEDICI SAID SITUATION CONFIRMED VALIDITY OF ITALY'S ATLANTIC POLICY AND ARGUED FOR CONSOLIDATION AND REINFORCEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE. SITUATION ALSO REQUIRED THAT POLICY OF UNIFYING WESTERN EUROPE OVERCOME ALL OBSTACLES DUE TO "RESIDUAL NARROW-MINDED NATIONALISM".

5. MEDICI SAID THAT MOSCOW WAS OBVIOUSLY HOPING TO PRESERVE AS WELL AS POSSIBLE ITS RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES; IT WAS EVIDENT THAT MOSCOW HOPED THAT AFTER BRIEF PERIOD OF COOLNESS IN RELATIONS, THINGS WOULD RETURN TO THEIR PREVIOUS STATE. HE SAID IT WAS ALSO PROBABLE THAT THIS TIME, JUST AS IN 1956, "THE USSR COUNTED ON THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN A PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD AND IS TODAY STRONGLY COMMITTED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." BUT THIS ARMED INTERVENTION AND THE CONSEQUENCES IT MUST HAVE ON THE COMMUNIST CAMP ITSELF WENT BEYOND ANY PRIOR CALCULATION.

6. FOLLOWING MEDICI, MEMBERS OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES MADE STATEMENTS IN THE COMMISSION. SOCIALIST (PSU) PRESIDENT NENNI SAID SITUATION INVOLVED NOT SO MUCH EAST-WEST RELATIONS AS IT DID RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNIST PARTIES AND PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD SOCIALISM. HE CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO DO ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND STRENGTHEN SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ITALIAN AND CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLES.  
ACKLEY

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