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ACTION EUR 20

INFO AF 09, IO 13, SA 01, SAL 01, SAH 02, ACDA 16, NSA 02, CIAE 00, DODE 00,

GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12,

RSR 01, SR 01, /136 W

R 230815Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3165

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF BY-PLAY RE CZECH SITUATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED KAMPALA BETWEEN SOVIET AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT.

2. ON MORNING AUG 21 KIWANUKA EDITOR LOCAL VERNACULAR DAILY TAIFA EMPYA, TELEPHONED SOVIET EMBASSY AT ABOUT 8:00AM FOR COMMENT ON CZECH SITUATION. KIWANUKA SPOKE TO NOVOSTI REP WHO ACCORDING KIWANUKA STATED THAT SOVIETS HAD INVADDED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO COUNTER AN INVASION THAT COUNTRY BY WEST GERMANY ARMY. KIWANUKA ACCEPTED THIS AS STATEMENT OF FACT UNTIL LATER IN MORNING WHEN BRITISH INFO OFFICER CALLED ON HIM, LEARNED OF WHAT NOVOSTI REP HAD ALLEGEDLY SAID, AND SET RECORD STRAIGHT. BRITISHER IMMEDIATELY INFORMED GERMAN EMBASSY.

3. GERMAN EMBASSY, NON PLUSSED BY ALLEGED SOVIET STATEMENT, THEN CONTACTED OTHER PAPERS SEE IF THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN SIMILAR REPORT BY SOVIETS. WHILE RESPONSE FROM ARGUS WAS NEGATIVE, EDITOR OF PEOPLE STATED SOVIET EMBASSY HAD TELEPHONED HIM THAT MORNING WITH SAME STORY RE INVASION BY GERMANS. GERMAN AMBASSADOR SARRAZIN THEN CALLED IN PRESS REPS AND ISSUED STATEMENT PROTESTING ALLEGED STATEMENT BY SOVIET REPS. DESCRIBING THE ALLEGATION AS MALICIOUS AND COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED, SARRAZIN SAID IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN POLICY GERMAN GOVT AVOID ANYTHING

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THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INTERFERENCE CZECH AFFAIRS AND NOTED RECENT GERMANY ARMY MANEUVERS HAD BEEN MOVED FROM NORMAL EXERCISE AREA NEAR CZECH BORDER BECAUSE SITUATION CZECHOSLOVAKIA. GERMAN PROTEST WAS CARRIED YESTERDAY'S LOCAL PRESS.

4. TODAY'S PAPERS CARRY STATEMENT BY SOVIET EMB IN RESPONSE. SOVIETS SAY REPORTS RE ALLEGED STATEMENT RE GERMAN INVASION BY LOCAL SOVIET REP WERE "PURE INVENTION AND CANNOT BE ASSESSED OTHERWISE THAN AS AIMED AT STIRRING UP ANTI-SOVIET FEELINGS IN CONNECTION WITH EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. NONE OF THE SOVIET REPS IN UGANDA MADE STATEMENTS TO THAT EFFECT."

5. WE ASSUME THIS WILL END PUBLIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN GERMAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH WE SUSPECT BEGAN WITH LACK CLEAR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN KIWANUKA AND NOVOSTI REP. GERMANS TELL US THEY SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY FACT PEOPLE EDITOR SUBSEQUENTLY RETRACTED HIS STATEMENT HE HAD BEEN TELEPHONED BY SOVIETS SAYING IT WAS KIWANUKA WHO HAD TELEPHONED NOT RUSSIANS. NEITHER SOVIET NOR CZECH CHARGE'S MADE APPEARANCE AT CEREMONY YESTERDAY EVENING TO DEDICATE NEW E.A. C. HQS BLDG KAMPALA WHICH ATTENDED BY ALL OTHER MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

DECON 8/69. STEBBINS

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