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Japan
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ACTION EUR 20

INFO EA 10, IO 13, SA 01, SAH 02, SAL 01, ACDA 16, SS 25, CIAE 00, DODE 00,

GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, USIA 12,

CCO 00, RSR 01, /134 W

P 221120Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2082

INFO USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

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1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF GOJ STATEMENT ON CZECH SITUATION RELEASED THIS AFTERNOON. GOJ HAS CALLED IN SOVIET CHARGE, AND IS CALLING IN REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATIONS THAT INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO FORMALLY HAND THEM STATEMENT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS WATCHED WITH DEEP INTEREST THE PROGRESS OF THE PEACEFUL TALKS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON A SERIES OF REFORMS, TAKING PLACE IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC SINCE LAST JANUARY. AS A RESULT OF THESE TALKS, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED AMONG THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED IN THE RECENTLY HELD TALKS IN CERNA, BRATISLAVA ETC.

3. HOWEVER, THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES HAVE SUDDENLY RESORTED TO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS EVENT HAS BROUGHT PROFOUND SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND ITS PEOPLE. THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES CLAIM THAT THE PRESENT MILITARY INTERVENTION WAS BASED ON THE REQUEST OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTERVENTION THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, STATED THROUGH ITS NATIONAL BROADCASTING STATION IN THE CAPITAL THAT THE INTERVENTION WAS STARTED WITHOUT ANY PREVIOUS CONSULTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE PRIME MINISTER, OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER TOP LEADERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT.

4. MOREOVER, THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MADE ON THE TWENTY-FIRST OF THE MONTH CONSIDERS SUCH MILITARY INTERVENTION AS A VIOLATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK SOVEREIGNTY, WHICH WILL MAKE UNBEARABLE THE MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE, AND DEMANDS THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES FROM CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY. FROM THESE FACTS IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE ASSERTION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES ARE COMPLETELY BASELESS. FURTHERMORE, JUDGING FROM EVERY RELIABLE INFORMATION AND INDICATIONS WHICH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONCLUDES THAT THE MILITARY ACTIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WERE TAKEN AGAINST THE WILL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND THREATEN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AS AN OPEN VIOLATION BY FORCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THAT COUNTRY, AND ARE IN OPEN VIOLATION OF THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

5. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT EARNESTLY DESIRES THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WILL SUSPEND THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY, AND TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES FOR THE PEACEFUL AND AMICABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. END OF TEXT. UNQUOTE. JOHNSON

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