



Department of State

*Italy*  
**TELEGRAM**

(D)  
20

UNCLASSIFIED 607

PAGE 01 ROME 07909 261150Z

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ACTION EUR 20

INFO IO 13, NEA 13, 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, E 15, SAH 02, SAL 01, SA 01,

NIC 01, ACDA 16, SR 01, ORM 03, RSR 01, CU 04, /163 W  
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R 261125Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7981  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION NATO  
USUN NEW YORK 365  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS (ROME 7909)

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. ITALIAN STATE RADIO-TV ANNOUNCED NOON AUGUST 26, FOR BENEFIT OF CZECHOSLOVAKS PRESENTLY IN ITALY, THAT CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY ROME STATES LAND COMMUNICATION ROUTES WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE OPEN. STATEMENT SUGGESTS PERSONS HOLDING AIR TICKETS CAN FLY TO VIENNA AND THEN CONTINUE OVERLAND; SAYS ROAD CROSSINGS ARE OPEN ON AUSTRIAN FRONTIER, TRAINS ARE RUNNING VIENNA-PRAGUE VIA BRATISLAVA AND BRNO, AND THERE IS BUS SERVICE VIENNA-MIKULOV-BRNO.

2. UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF CZECHS AND SLOVAKS ARE BEGINNING TO SEEK ASYLUM IN ITALY. BEST KNOWN IS FILM DIRECTOR JIRI WEISS, WHOM PRESS REPORTED REQUESTED ASYLUM TOGETHER WITH WIFE ON AUGUST 23 IN ROME. OTHERS INCLUDE TOURISTS--PRESS REPORTS ONE GROUP OF TWENTY ASKED ASYLUM IN ROME--AND SOME SAILORS AND MEMBERS OF SPORTS TEAMS. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESS REPORTS MEMBERS OF BRATISLAVA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, WHICH HAD BEEN APPEARING AT TAORMINA, RETURNING HOME VIA ROME.  
MELOY

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