

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6

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By us, NARA Date 10-30-98

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AGREEMENT CHANNEL

1. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND CHIEF SIXTH SECTION MFA INFORM ME THAT IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT WITHIN THREE DAYS.
2. THEY PROMISED TO DO ALL THAT CAN BE DONE TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WITH WHOM I MET THIS AFTERNOON FOR A REPORT AFTER HE HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CANVAS POSSIBILITIES FOLLOWING PRESENTATION THIS MORNING,
3. HE SAID THAT SINCE RECEIVING EMBASSY' REQUEST FOR AGREEMENT THE MFA HAD GIVEN IT PRIORITY TREATMENT WITH VIEW TO PRESENTING IT IN PROPER FORM AT PRESIDENT NOVOTNY'S OFFICE BY THIS EVENING (MAY 6).
4. MFA OFFICIALS EXPLAIN THAT NORMALLY, UNDER CZECH PROCEDURES, THREE WEEKS ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT REQUESTS AND THAT OUR REQUEST FOR THREE DAY APPROVAL CAME AT MOST DIFFICULT TIME. PRESIDENT NOVOTNY'S SCHEDULE, THEY SAID, IS OVERLOADED WITH MEETINGS, SPEECHES AND OTHER COMMITMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THREE DAY CELEBRATIONS CULMINATING MAY 9 AND WITH PRESIDENT'S ROLE AS PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ON EVE

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-2- 1478, MAY 6, FROM PRAGUE

OF PARTY CONGRESS.

5. OFFICIALS VOLUNTEERED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE DESIRABILITY UNDER AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM OF MOVING MOST SPEEDILY ON DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS AND THAT CZECH GOVERNMENT WISHED TO MEET OUR SPECIAL NEEDS TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE.
6. THEY SAID THEY APPRECIATED MUTUAL BENEFITS THAT MIGHT BE DERIVED FROM SHOWING A GENUINE DESIRE TO COMPLY WITH PRESIDENT

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JOHNSON'S WISH AND THAT CZECH GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF STALLING OR DELAYING UNNECESSARILY ON AGREEMENT. AND THEY SAID THEY ALSO SAW ADVANTAGES TO CZECH SIDE IN BEING AS FORTHCOMING AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. BUT AT SAME TIME THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD BE AS UNDERSTANDING AS POSSIBLE OF PROBLEMS ON THEIR SIDE. A FIXED AND WELL-SETTLED TRADITION AND PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING AGREEMENT REQUESTS EXISTS, ETC.

7. OFFICIALS SAID THAT BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION PROVIDED ON MR. BEAM WAS AMPLE AND FULLY SHOWED HIS HIGH QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND THAT THERE CERTAINLY WAS NO INTENT OR NEED ON CZECH SIDE TO TRY TO GO BEHIND INFORMATION ALREADY PROVIDED.

8. IN SUMMING UP, MFA OFFICIALS SAID THEY HOPED EMBASSY COULD BE GIVEN AGREEMENT BY MAY 13 BUT THAT EVEN THIS COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED. THEY PROMISED TO DO THEIR BEST AND MEANWHILE HOPED THAT NO REPEAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT WOULD BE MADE BY US GOVERNMENT SINCE THIS WOULD COMPLICATE WHAT NOW PROMISES TO BE AN EXCELLENT APPOINTMENT.

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