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ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, NSAE 00, NSCE 00, SSO 00, USIE 00, CCO 00, USUE 00,  
IO 13, SCI 05, SA 01, SAH 02, SAL 01, ACDA 16, NIC 01, GPM 04, H 02,  
INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, NEA 13, RSR 01, /126 W

P R 211341Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5598  
INFO USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS LONDON 11973

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS RELEASED BY NO. 10 DOWNING STREET  
AT 1 P.M.:

"THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND CERTAIN OF HER  
ALLIES IN INVADING CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND ALL ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF  
INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR. THIS ACTION IS ALSO IN SHARP CONFLICT  
WITH THE OFTEN REPEATED STATEMENTS BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT  
ABOUT NON-INTERFERENCE WITH THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF  
INDEPENDENT STATES. THIS IS A TRAGEDY NOT ONLY FOR  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT FOR EUROPE AND THE WHOLE WORLD. IT IS  
A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE EFFORTS WHICH SO MANY COUNTRIES HAVE  
BEEN MAKING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. IN  
THE LIGHT OF THESE GRAVE EVENTS, WE ARE NATURALLY IN CLOSE  
CONSULTATION WITH OUR FRIENDS."

2. PRESS IS REPORTING THAT PARLIAMENT WILL BE RECALLED NEXT  
WEEK BUT FONOFF STATES THAT THIS IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION  
AND WAS NOT PART OF FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND ABOVE STATEMENT WAS CHECKED WITH WASHINGTON  
BEFORE RELEASE.

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4. GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP'S OFFICE JUST CONFIRMED TO US THAT  
PARLIAMENT IS BEING RECALLED FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 26. KAISER