



Department of State

Panama
TELEGRAM

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R 212222Z AUG 68
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4653

UNCLAS PANAMA 4402

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PANAMA 4395

PANAMA RADIO AND TV STATIONS LED NEWSCASTS MID-DAY WEDNESDAY WITH ACCOUNTS OF INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CHANNEL 2-TV, SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT DR. ARIAS, EDITORIALIZED STRONGLY AGAINST SOVIET ACTION. EDITORIAL VOICED, AND MOST LIKELY WRITTEN, BY NEWS DIRECTOR MARIO VELASQUEZ, WHO RETURNED THREE DAYS AGO FROM PRAGUE AND OTHER COMMUNIST POINTS WHICH HE VISITED ON SOVIET TRAVEL GRANT.

CHANNEL 4-TV, SUPPORTER OF PRESIDENT ROBLES, COMMENTED BRIEFLY AGAINST INVASION. NOON TABLOID EL SOL, OWNED BY UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, SAMUDIO, CARRIED BRIEF FRONT-PAGE ACCOUNT DATED LONDON, WHICH SAID TASS NEWS SERVICE REPORTED THAT "INTERVENTION" WAS JUSTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BRATISLAVA DECLARATION AND MADE AT REQUEST OF CZECH AUTHORITIES. SENSATION-ALIST AFTERNOON TABLOIDS, EXPRESO ANJYHA HORA, CARRIED BRIEF, INCONSPICUOUS ACCOUNTS REPORTING CONFRONTATION OF CZECH CIVILIANS AND RUSSIAN "INVADERS" AND OCCUPATION OF PRAGUE BY SOVIET TANKS. DOWNS

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