



# Department of State

*Netherlands*  
**TELEGRAM**

46

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ 370

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44.

ACTION EUR 20

INFO CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,  
SS 25, USIA 12, NSA 02, NIC 01, IO 13, SA 01, SAL 01, SAH 02, SR 01,  
NEA 13, ACDA 16, RSR 01, /141 W

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R 231605Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2859  
INFO USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ THE HAGUE 6798

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. FOLLOWING ARE IMPRESSIONS AND REACTIONS DERIVED FROM CONTACTS WITH MF OFFICIALS OVER PAST FEW DAYS. ONE DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS LIKELY HAVE BEARING ON FUTURE GON POLICIES, IS RECOGNITION AND RESPECT EXPRESSED FOR CERTAIN KEY OFFICIALS WHO, DESPITE SIREN CALL OF DETENTE, HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED OF SOVIET READINESS TO USE MILITARY FORCE TO SUPPRESS OPPOSITION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AS LATE AS LAST WEEK, ACTING NATO DIVISION CHIEF (PROTECT) SAID, "HARD-LINE INSTRUCTION" ON CZECH SITUATION SENT NETH NATO DELEGATION, WHICH IN FACT PROTESTED AND URGED "LESS RIGID" POSITION.

2. WHILE EVEN PRIOR TO AUGUST 20 MFA SOURCES INSISTED THAT LUNS' RECENT BI-LATERAL CONTACTS WITH WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WERE IN RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURES AND DID NOT REPRESENT CHANGE IN NETHERLAND FOREIGN POLICY, THIS POINT HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED SINCE AUG 21. AS ONE OFFICIAL CONCLUDED, RESPONSIBLE POLICY OFFICIALS FEEL "VINDICATED" WITH RESULT THAT THEIR VOICES WILL BE STRENGTHENED

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IN GOVERNMENT COUNCILS.

3. FIRST POLICY REACTION OF GON IS ALMOST INSTINCTIVE TURNING TO NATO, ESPECIALLY IN MFA AND MOD. HOWEVER, IN BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL CIRCLES (AND IN UNOFFICIAL CONTACTS) STATEMENTS OF RELIANCE ON NATO ARE MIXED WITH EXPRESSIONS OF FRANK DISAPPOINTMENT AT (A) APPARENT FAILURE OF WESTERN INTELLIGENCE, EITHER NATIONAL OR NATO, AND (B) CONVICTION THAT CURRENT ASSUMPTIONS IN NATO ABOUT WARNING TIME MUST BE THOROUGHLY REVIEWED. (SOME HAVE OPENLY LINKED WARNING TIME CONCEPT WITH U.S., SPECIFICALLY EX-SECRETARY MCNAMARA.) WE NOTE THIS ONLY BECAUSE IT HAS SURFACED REPEATEDLY IN OUR CONTACTS WITH POLITICAL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS AND BELIEVE DUTCH ARE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZING THIS SUBJECT WITH VIEW TO RAISING IT IN NATO. SOHM

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