



Department of State

Sudan  
TELEGRAM

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ACTION AF 15

INFO SS 25, EUR 15, IO 13, USIE 00, NSA 02, SA 01, SAH 02, SAL 01, ACDA 16,

SR 01, NIC 01, EA 10, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03,

NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SPI 02, RSR 01, /136 W  
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R 22130Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2994

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 1852

JOINT STATE/USIS MESSAGE

SUBJ: SUDANESE MEDIA REACTION TO SOVBLOC ACTION

AUGUST 22

1. ALTHOUGH NEARLY ALL MAJOR PAPERS CARRY TASS VERSION OF SOVBLOC OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS NEWS ITEM, VERSIONS BY WESTERN NEWSAGENCIES WERE CARRIED AS WELL BY ALL EXCEPT COMMUNIST AL-DIA WHICH PRINTED ONLY MOSCOW VERSION. IN ALL PAPERS OCCUPATION WAS MAIN HEADLINE SOME OF WHICH USED WORD "INVASION." NO PAPER DEFENDED OCCUPATION EDITORIALY. STRONG EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON SOVBLOC ACTION WERE CARRIED IN ARTICLES IN UMMA AND MITHAQ IN PARTICULAR, MITHAQ CONTAINING STATEMENT BY TURABI CALLING MOVE "BRUTAL ACTION BY COLONIAL RUSSIAN FORCES" AS WELL AS THREE OTHER DENUNCIATORY EDITORIALS. AYYAM CARRIED BRIEF SIGNED PIECE BY BESHIR MUHAMMAD SAID CONDEMNING OCCUPATION AS "STEP REMINDING US OF HITLER'S METHODS." AYYAM ALSO CARRIED AS NEWS STATEMENT BY SADIQ AL-MAHDI CRITICIZING ACTION AS VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND POINTING OUT THIS MEANT SMALL COUNTRIES NOT SAFE FROM FORCE OF GREAT POWERS. RAI AL-AMM EDITORIAL SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL BECAUSE OF ITS SUSPICION DUBCEK CONTEMPLATING RESTORATION RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT EDITORIAL DOES STATE, "THIS MEASURE HAS PLACED FRIENDS OF SOVIET UNION IN CRITICAL POSITION. WE CANNOT CONDEMN AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM AND KEEP

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QUIET ON OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

2. CZECH CHARGE' AND COMMUNIST LEADER ABD AL-KHALIQ MAHGOUB  
BOTH QUOTED AS WITHHOLDING COMMENT, BUT DIA WILL  
PUBLISH SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT TOMORROW. NOEL

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