



Department of State

Venezuela
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ACTION ARA 16

INFO EUR 15, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10,

P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, USIA 12, SA 01, SAL 01, SAH 02, ACDA 16,

SCI 05, IO 13, NIC 01, RSR 01, /136 W

P R 212224Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5206

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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REF: CARACAS 7569

1. STRONG PUBLIC REACTION CONDEMNING SOVIET MOVE AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTINUES DEVELOP IN CARACAS. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER THIS MORNING PRESIDENTIAL PRESS AIDE EUGENIO SOLER COMMENTED ON DEEP INDIGNATION PRESIDENTIAL PALACE OVER SITUATION. STRESSING THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWPOINT, SOLER SAID HE THOUGH SOVIET ACTION REPRESENTED INVITATION TO U.S. TO MOVE AGAINST CUBA. COMMENTS SUCH AS THIS LINKING CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH CUBA HAVE BEEN REPEATED BY SEVERAL EMBASSY CONTACTS TODAY, INCLUDING MININT LEANDRO MORA (SEE REFTEL).

2. FDP VICE PRESIDENT ZAMBRANO TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER TODAY SOV ACTION "INCONCEIVABLE" IN THESE TIMES, SHOWING HOW LITTLE SOV THINKING HAD REALLY CHANGED SINCE HUNGARIAN REVOLT. ADDED THAT INVASION GAVE LIE TO "NEW" SOV IMAGE OF PEACEFUL STATE SEEKING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL. SAID VEN POPULAR REACTION, BASED ON DEEP EMOTIONAL COMMENTMENT PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION, WOULD OVERWHELMINGLY CONDEMN USSR, AND OPINED THAT IF LOCAL COMMUNISTS SUPPORT SOVS, THEY WILL LOSE MUCH SUPPORT. ZAMBRANO CONCLUDED ONLY POSITIVE ASPECT CZECH TRAGEDY WAS IN REVEALING REAL NATURE SOV INTENTIONS, AND HOPED WEST WOULD EXPLOIT

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E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

State Dept. Guidelines

By sl/clm NARA, Date 5-19-06

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FULLLY.

3. ALL AFTERNOON PAPERS CONTINUE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE CZECH DEVELOPMENT'S INCLUDING AFP PARIS STORY ANNOUNCING RESIGNATIONS KOSYGIN AND GRETCHKO. MEP CANDIDATE PRIETO CONDEMNED SOV ACTION AS VIOLATION PRINCIPLE SELF-DETERMINATION, REPRESENTING RUSSIAN ATTEMPT IMPOSE FORM OF GOVERNMENT CONTRARY TO WISHES CZECH PEOPLE. COPEI'S CALDERA CALLED EVENT "REALLY MONSTRUOUS", AND SAID ACTION WOULD DAMAGE SOV BLOC MORE THAN ANY AMOUNT ENEMY PROPAGANDA. AD'S GONZALO BARRIOS SAID ACTION DEMONSTRATED FEAR OF LIBERTY BY EAST EUR REGIMES. FND LEADER USLAR PEITRI CALLED INVASION "INSOLENT INTERVENTION LACKING ANY JUSTIFICATION," AND SAID RAISED POSSIBILITY OF WORLD CONFLICT. SIMILARY STATEMENTS MADE BY URD'S JOVITO VILLALBA, CARDINAL QUINTERO, PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RONDEON LOVERA, AND SEVERAL DEPUTIES.

4. PRESS REPORTS CONSULTATION UNDER WASY IN CONGRESS FOR PREPARATION OF RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SOV INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

HERRON

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