



Department of State

Venezuela
TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07646 240009Z

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ACTION ARA 16

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00,

NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 25, USIA 12, SA 01, SAH 02, SAL 01, SR 01,

SCI 05, ACDA 16, NIC 01, E 15, RSR 01, /157 W

P 232216Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5227

INFO KSMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY 170

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CARACAS 7646

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. I MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH DEPUTY FONMIN RAUL NASS TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS RE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND LEFT WITH HIM SUMMARIES OF DEPARTMENTAL SITREPS AS WELL AS BOHLEN BRIEFINGS AND RELATED MATERIAL.

2. NASS, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM MOSCOW AND EASTERN EUROPE, EXPRESSED SURPRISE ABOUT USSR ACTION. HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY USSR FONMIN OFFICIALS THAT NO RPT NO REPRESSIVE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST THE LIBERAL CZECH REGIME OF DUBCEK. HE HAD BEEN SIMILARLY IMPRESSED BY SENSE OF COMPLETE NORMALCY AND OPTIMISM OF CZECHS DURING HIS VISIT THERE. YUGOSLAV DEPUTY FONMIN HAD TOLD HIM THAT USE OF USSR FORCE AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD SET BACK COMMUNIST MOVEMENT TWENTY YEARS. ROMANIANS HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS.

3. NASS NOTED A GENERAL LATIN AMERICAN CONCER ABOUT THE RETURN OF THE COLD WAS BECAUSE OF THIS USSR ACTION AND AGREED THAT IMPACT IN EUROPE AND MID-EAST COULD BE DANGEROUS. WE AGREED TO KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLD.
BERNBAUM

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

State Dept. Guidelines

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

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