



Department of State

JORDAN
349
TELEGRAM

47

UNCLASSIFIED 967

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06323 241459Z

43

ACTION NEA 15

INFO EUR 15, IO 13, SA 01, SAL 01, SAH 02, ACDA 16, NIC 01, NSA 02, SR 01,

CIAE 00, DODE 00, GPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02,

SS 25, USIA 12, AF 09, /146 W

R 241245Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6226

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ADEN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS AMMAN 6323

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA: JORDANIAN PUBLIC MEDIA REACTIONS

REF AMMAN 6274, 6289

1. SUMMARY: JORDAN'S TWO DAILIES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY CONTINUED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE CZECH CRISIS. AD DUSTOUR IN PARTICULAR HAS GIVEN GREAT DETAIL, QUOTING OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS INCLUDING MEMBERS CONGRESS AT LENGTH. IN EDITORIALS BOTH DREW PARALLELS WITH ISRAELI OCCUPATION ARAB LANDS AND CHARGED US AND WEST WITH BEING LESS CONCERNED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM ARAB LANDS. JORDAN TV, HOWEVER, BROADCAST SPECIAL REPORT ON CZECH CRISIS STRONGLY CRITICIZING RUSSIAN ACTION AND REVIEWING AS WELL ACTION IN HUNGARY IN 1956. END SUMMARY.

2. FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JORDANIAN PRESS CONTINUED GIVE EXTENSIVE FACTUAL REPORTING ON CZECHOSLOVAK DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING SC ACTIVITY. AD-DIFAA REPORTED AUG 23 THAT PM TALHOUNI RECEIVED US AMB WHO CONVEYED AMERICAN VIEWS. SAME ARTICLE RECALLED TALHOUNI RECEIVED RUSSIAN AMB TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY WHO STATED

UNCLASSIFIED



Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 AMMAN 06323 241459Z

OCCUPATION AT REQUEST OF SEVERAL CZECH LEADERS AND WOULD BE TEMPORARY. ALSO NOTED THAT CZECH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN AMMAN HAD CONFERRED WITH SEVERAL AMBASSADORS IN JORDAN AND STATED HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANYTHING FROM HIS GOVT ABOUT THE EVENTS BUT WOULD LEAVE FOR BEIRUT SHORTLY TO MEET THE CZECH AMB THERE. AUGUST 24 PAPERS GAVE EXTENSIVE ROUNDUP OF EVENTS AND QUOTED IRAQI PRESIDENT BAKR AS SAYING HE HOPED FORCES OF WARSAW PACT WILL BE WITHDRAWN VERY SOON AND THAT HE HOPED CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD CONTINUE ADHERE TO SOCIALIST LINE. WEEKLY AKHBAR AL USBU^U HEADLINED "COLLAPSE OF ZIONIST COUP D'ETAT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" AND "VIOLENT BLOW DEALT BY RUSSIA TO ZIONISM AND THE WEST." SAME WEEKLY GAVE LONG ACCOUNT OF EVENTS AND THEN CHARGED THAT "ZIONISTS AND THE AGENTS OF USA AND WEST GERMANY" WAGED A BATTLE OF "REFORMS" DURING WHICH ARMS WERE SMUGGLED BY WEST GERMANY INTO CZECHSLOVAKIA.

3. EDITORIAL BY AD DUSTOUR IN EDITORIAL AUG 23 AND 24 SAW LESSON FROM CZECHSLOVAKIA AS THAT FORCE MAKES HISTORY AND SMALL NATIONS MUST LEARN THAT WEAKNESS IS THE MAJOR DEFECT IN A WORLD WHICH HAS NO MORALS OR REASON. AD DUSTOU EXPRESSED SORROW FOR THE CZECHSLOVAKIA INCIDENT AND DWELT AT LENGTH ON WHAT IT SAW AS PARALLELS IN THE ISRAEL USE OF FORCE AND OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORY. DUSTOUR SAW US AS LESS ATTENTIVE TO "WITHDRAWAL" FROM ARAB LANDS THAN IT WAS TO SAME PRINCIPLE IN CZECH CRISIS. DUSTOUR SAID IN AUG 24 EDITORIAL THAT QUOTE NOW THAT THE ARAB WORLD IS FACING A TEST OF FORCE REPRESENTED IN THE PRESENCE OF ISRAEL, THE ARABS MUST LOOK OUT FOR FORCE AND SHOULD OBTAIN IT IN THEIR HANDS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DRIVE OUT THE INVADER FROM THEIR HOMELAND. THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE ARABS TO SURVIVE BUT TO RESORT TO FORCE WITH WHICH THEY CAN DEAL WITH ISRAEL. HE WHO IMAGINES THAT ISRAEL WILL QUIT ARAB TERRITORY THROUGH AMERICAN OR SOVIET PRESSURE IS QUITE MISTAKEN. ISRAEL SEIZED PALESTINE WITH FORCE AND IT IS NOT GOING TO LEAVE BUT WITH FORCE. UNQUOTE.

4. AD DIFAA EDITORIAL AUG 23 ASKED WHY UN MEMBERS VOICE AGAINST ISRAEL HAD NOT BEEN AS STRONG AS THE PROTEST AGAINST THE ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. AUG 24 AD DIFAA NOTED ISRAELI CONDEMNATION OF INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EXPATRIATED ON THEME OF ISRAELI "HYPOCRISY" AT TIME IT WAS OCCUPYING ARAB LANDS AND TAKING OTHER MEASURES AGAINST ARAB PEOPLE. THE PAPER ASKED "IS PRAGUE MORE MISERABLE THAN JERUSALEM TODAY?"

UNCLASSIFIED





Department of State

TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 AMMAN 06323 241459Z

5. JORDAN TELEVISION BROADCAST 15-MINUTE SPECIAL BY ITS NEWS SECTION ON EVENING AUG 23. PRESENTATION WAS IN FORTHRIGHT CONTRAST TO AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE REFLECTED IN PRESS EDITORIALS. THE BROADCAST ATTACKED THE BRUTAL INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT TRACED CHRONOLOGY REFERRING BACK TO HUNGARY IN 1956, SHOWING FILMS OF BLOODSHED AT THAT TIME. CHRONOLOGY OF RECENT EVENTS GIVEN IN DETAIL. BROADCAST QUOTED AMB BALL'S CASTIGATION OF SOVIET ACTION. A VOICE THAT COMPETENT OBSERVERS DESCRIBED AS SARCASTIC SAID THE RUSSIANS STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN ASKED BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO INTERVENE.
SYMMES

UNCLASSIFIED