



Department of State

Venezuela 318
TELEGRAM

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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 20, USIA 12, SA 01, SAH 02, SAL 01,

NIC 01, ACDA 16, SR 01, SCI 05, RSR 01, /137 W
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P R 212209Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5205

INFO USCINCSO

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY RIO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CARACAS 7589

REF: STATE 224690, 224692

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. FONMIN IRIBARREN BORGES AND FONOFF DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS HERRERA MARCANO DISCUSSED CZECH SITUATION THIS AFTERNOON WITH ME AND EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH FONMIN IN ABSENCE PRESIDENT LEONI WHO IS ON VACATION, ISSUED COMMUNIQUE CONDEMNING SOVIET AGGRESSION AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. WE PROVIDED FONMIN BACKGROUND ON DOBRYNIN'S NOTE TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON (STATE 224692) AND SECRETARY RUSK'S LATER CONVERSATION WITH DOBRYNIN (STATE 224690). IRIBARREN COMMENTED THAT SOVIETS HAD HANDED SIMILAR NOTE AUGUST 20 TO VENEZUELA'S AMBASSADOR TO UN, PEREZ GUERRERO.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

State Dept. Guidelines

By slcbm, NARA, Date 5-19-06

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TM FONMIN WENT ON TO EXPRESS DEEP CONCERN OVER SOVIET ACTION STATING IT REPRESENTED THREAT TO PEACE. HE CHARACTERIZED SOVIET MOVE AS AN "UNCIVILIZED ACT" (UNA BARBARIDAD), STATING IT HAD CAUGHT HIM BY SURPRISE BECAUSE GOV THOUGHT SOVIETS AND CZECHS HAD REACHED AN ACCOMMODATION EARLIER AT BRATISLAVA.

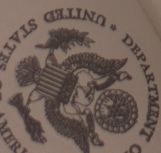
4. IRIBARREN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY ARE URGING THAT UN SECURITY COUNCIL BE CONVOKED TO CONSIDER SITUATION BUT THAT SUCH MOVE WOULD PROBABLY BE UNPRODUCTIVE BECAUSE THE SOVIETS WOULD BE SURE TO VETO SECURITY COUNCIL JURISDICTION. FONMIN STATED THAT HE CONSIDERES IT MORE LIKELY THAT MATTER WILL END UP BEFORE UNGA AND UNGA RESOLUTION 2131. HE SAID GOV WOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT EFFORTS BRING CZECH BEFORE UNGA.

5. IN ADDITION TO SUBSTANCE DOBRYNIN EXCHANGES WITH PRESIDENT JONSON AND SECRETARY RUSK, WE PROVIDED FONMIN WITH COPIES OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S AUGUST 21 DECLARATION AND OTHER BACKGROUND FROM USIS WIRELESS FILE. FONMIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION WHICH HE TERMED VERY USEFUL.

6. FOLOWING IS TEXT GOV COMMUNIQUE: "IN VIEW OF THE NEWS REGARDING THE INVAEQON OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY TROOPS OF THE SOVIET UNIN AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA DECLARES THAT THIS ACT AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGIRTY OF THAT COUNTRY IS AN OPEN VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-AGRESSIN AND SELF-DETERMINATIN OF PEOPLES, AS STATED IN THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATONS, AND IN THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION FORMALIZED BY RESOLUTION 2131 (XX) OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONSISTENTLY DEFENDED BY VENEZUELA.

7. " THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE ARE CAUSE OF GRAVE CONCERN TO THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT SINCE THEY CONSTITUTE A BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, A BRAZEN (NO DISIMULADA) EMPLOYEENT OF SUPERIOR FORCE, AND THEREFORE A SERIOUS SETBARK TO THE ASPIRATIONS FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BY THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.

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7. "THE EVENING
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8. "THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AFFIRMS THAT THE INVADING TROOPS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY.

9. "THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA BY EXPRESSING ITS DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY TOWARDS THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, REFLECTS FAITHFULLY THE SENTIMENTS OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE."

HERRON

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