

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

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Origin

ACTION: AmEmbassy LONDON

Info

INFO: AmEmbassy MOSCOW
AmEmbassy PRAGUE

USUN

STATE 227977

N O D I S

Subject: Czech Crisis

from: RonSec Stewart

Following message/passed to Secretary by Ambassador Dean Friday,

6:00 p.m local, August 23:

QTE I recall your prophetic remarks to us in Reykjavik about troubles this summer. Your fears have certainly been justified. The result of the Security Council debate is satisfactory as far as it goes but it does not relieve my anxieties about future possibilities. The Russians have clearly made wrong assumptions about what they can do in Prague and unless there is a new mood of acquiescence by the Czech people the Russian troops will face a situation in which the risks of bloodshed will increase. I have considered whether the Russians would seek to escape from their dilemma by creating a diversion. I have come to the conclusion that they have their hands too full. Nevertheless, this is a time for all of us to remain very calm and cool-headed.

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Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by: The Secretary

Classified by

S/S Mr. Brown

RAPD

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4

By bmj, NARA, Date 1-12-06

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that the invasion
QTE When I saw Smirnovsky last Wednesday, I told him/~~that the invasion~~
of Czechoslovakia would inevitably create damage to East-West relations.
QTE The prospect of much further damage is growing. This affects both
ourselves in the West and the Russians. Public indignation will put
the clock right back and destroy all the patient work of the last
decade. I would like to be doubly certain that the Russians are
fully aware of this danger and I will spell it out when I see
Smirnovsky again before our parliamentary debate next Monday. Would you
see advantage in some direct message from you to the Russians in the
same sense? UNQTE

2. Embassy is requested to pass the following reply from Secretary Rusk
to Foreign Secretary Stewart:

QTE Your message of the 23rd was very helpful. I am flattered that you
should have remembered I/~~had wondered~~
~~my remarks at Reykjavik.~~ my remarks at Reykjavik.

As I think Pat Dean told you, I called Dobrynin in that very
evening. He said he fully understood the significance of what I had
been telling him about the reaction in this country/~~and~~ the possible
effect of the Soviet action on Soviet-American relations, and I gather
this point had been brought home in Moscow.

I also let him know of our concern over the rumors which had been
coming in from non-Romanian sources of a possible Soviet invasion of
Romania. Dobrynin denied any knowledge of this and said he did not
believe there was anything to these reports. ~~XXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXX~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

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I am confident that he understood as well what I said to him on the problem the Soviets would face if they tried to create a diversion by playing around with Berlin.

I am pleased to note that our Czech Task Force in the Department is in close touch with your people here. UNQTE.

END.

GP-3