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August 30, 1968

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ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN  
OF THE USSR TO SECRETARY RUSK

On August 21 the Soviet Government informed the Government of the United States of a decision of five allied socialist states, adopted in connection with a request of the Czechoslovak side, to render immediately the assistance to the fraternal Czechoslovak people in its defense of socialist statehood, established by the Constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and of entering of their military units for this purpose into the territory of Czechoslovakia. This decision of the five allied states in no measure infringes upon the state interests of the United States or any other state. It comes out of bi-lateral and multi-lateral obligations, taken by the socialist countries in defense of their security, and had as its aim not to allow such development of events which would shatter the mainstays of European peace and world security.

As is known, during the last days negotiations took place in Moscow between the Czechoslovak delegation with President L. Svoboda at the head and the leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government. In the course of the negotiations there was frank and friendly discussion on the questions connected with the present development of international situation including the questions about the

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situation in Czechoslovakia in the last days and the questions connected with the temporary entering of troops of five socialist countries into the territory of Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The results of the Soviet-Czechoslovak negotiations are stated in the joint communique published on August 27, which has been probably studied by the Government of the United States.

A great significance is being attached in the Soviet Union to these negotiations and their favorable results. The same high evaluation of the results of the negotiations is made by the leadership of allied socialist countries - Bulgaria, Hungary, German Democratic Republic, Poland.

Once again a deep unity of interests of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union was confirmed, including the unity of interests in international affairs, in the basic questions of ensuring European security in the face of growing intrigues of revanchist, militaristic and neo-nazi forces; was confirmed also joint determination to strengthen friendship and unity of socialist countries and to increase their defensive capacity, to give resolute rebuff to counter-revolutionary forces, tied with the external aggressive circles.

The fact, that the negotiations were conducted at the highest party

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and state level and that it was agreed to continue appropriate contacts, demonstrates a big step forward in strengthening, developing and deepening of the traditional, historic friendship between the peoples of both countries. The Governments of both states declared of their determination to direct their joint efforts to this noble goal, to build further their relations on the basis of mutual respect, equal rights, territorial integrity, independence and socialist solidarity.

It was agreed in the course of negotiations that the Soviet Union on its part will give all necessary assistance to the Government and people of Czechoslovakia in their efforts towards normalization of life which was broken by the intrigues of counter-revolution anti-socialist forces, in the solution of economic problems, etc.

Those who built their plans on the use of alleged contradictions among the socialist states and counted on the forces of counter-revolution are witnessing the collapse of their hopes. No one will ever be allowed to tear out any link from the friendship of socialist countries.

As it was already stated in our information to the Government of the United States of August 21, we proceeded and are proceeding from the fact that the events in Czechoslovakia should not cause any harm to the

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in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. It is noted in Moscow that also on the part of the leaders of the United States there were made statements to the effect that they are interested in the improvement of the relations between our countries.

The fact of appealing of the Government of the United States to the Security Council with the so-called Czechoslovak question moreover could not be interpreted in the Soviet Union otherwise as an unfriendly act on the part of the United States. As is known Czechoslovakia not only did not ask to discuss this question in the Security Council but it demanded to withdraw it from the agenda of the Council.

The appeal of the United States to the United Nations with this question as well as sharply hostile to the Soviet Union character and tone of the U. S. Representative speeches in the Security Council cannot, of course, in any way facilitate the task of improvement of these relations. Quite the opposite.

So far as we are concerned the Soviet Government stands for the development of the Soviet-American relations and is ready to move ahead in this direction including the questions which were the subject of discussion between our governments lately. But it would be a mistake to suppose,

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however, that showing its care in this respect the Soviet Union would neglect its primary responsibility — the defence of the position of socialism wherever and in whatever form should a threat to the fraternal socialist countries emerge.

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