

OCT 1

16:44

TO:

INCOMING CIPHER MESSAGE

NYC2 1 OCT 68

TO: WALTER INFO COLLINS COOK KINGSLEY PECHACEK
FM: PETZALL INFO KAUFMANN SCHNEIDER ELIAS

1030AM

THE UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION LAST NIGHT SPLIT DOWN THE MIDDLE ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF CTK CORRESPONDENT KAREL KRAL.

IN THE END, FOLLOWING ALMOST THREE HOURS OF PROCEDURAL AND PARLIAMENTARY HAGGLING, THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION ADOPTED TWO SEEMINGLY CONTRADICTORY RESOLUTIONS.

ONE, WHICH WAS ADOPTED WITH A SIZABLE MAJORITY, INSTRUCTED THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION TO INFORM CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR ZDENEK CERNIK ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION'S ANXIETY AND CONCERN OVER THE STATUS OF KRAL. THE PRESIDENT IS TO REPORT IN WRITING BACK TO THE ASSOCIATION NOT LATER THAN FOUR WEEKS FROM NOW.

THE OTHER RESOLUTION, ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY OF A SINGLE VOTE, SIMPLY REFERRED THE KRAL CASE BACK TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION TO HANDLE IT AT ITS DISCRETION.

THE FIRST RESOLUTION WAS A COMPROMISE VERSION OF A LARGELY AMERICAN EFFORT TO SUGGEST THAT KRAL HAD BECOME A VICTIM OF THE POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHICH WERE BEYOND THE CONTROL BOTH OF HIS

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GOVERNMENT AND HIS NEWS AGENCY. THIS ORIGINAL DRAFT WAS VIOLENTLY OPPOSED BY CORRESPONDENTS FROM TASS, PRENSA LATINA, HUNGARIAN RADIO, AND ONE SPANISH AND ONE LEBANESE CORRESPONDENT.

THE SECOND RESOLUTION WAS SUBMITTED BY THE TASS CORRESPONDENT WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ARGUED THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER HAD IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS ALREADY DECIDED THAT THE KRAL ISSUE WAS A POLITICAL ONE AND SHOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH AT ALL.

KRAL HIMSELF WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING. THE PRESIDENT OF UNCA READ OUT KRAL'S NOTE TO VARIOUS COLLEAGUES SAYING THAT HE HIMSELF DID NOT ASK ANYONE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON HIS PROFESSIONAL PROBLEM AND THAT HE LEFT IT UP TO UNCA WHETHER THE MEMBERSHIP FELT THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONCERNED OR NOT.

END MSG.