

RADIO FREE EUROPE
MUNICH

INCOMING CIPHER MESSAGE

1969 JAN 29

08:06

TO: C

NYC65 29 JAN 69
TO WALTER
FM SCHNEIDER INFO KAUFMANN
5PM JAN 28

URGENT

A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN REGARDING POLISH DESK COVERAGE OF JOHNSON READERS DIGEST ARTICLE. AS INDICATED IN MY MORNING MESSAGE TODAY (PREA13) I ADVISED THAT ALL NY DESKS REPORT WHAT JOHNSON HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA (SEE CHEROT SPECIAL - P 14 OF 28 JANUARY). MR WASIUTYNSKI DISAGREED AND SAID THAT HE INTENDS TO DEVOTE AN ITEM IN TOMORROWS "FACTS AND VIEWS" TO WHAT JOHNSON SAYS ABOUT VIETNAM IN THE ARTICLE. MR WASIUTYNSKI FEELS THAT THE PRESIDENTS STATEMENT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IN POLAND SINCE IT EMPHASIZES THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF GERMANY, BERLIN AND NATO, AND IN HIS VIEW SUGGESTS SOME KIND OF SPHERES OF INFLUENCE UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE ALSO FEELS THAT THE MATERIAL IS NOT TIMELY. MY POSITION IS THAT THE JOHNSON STATEMENT IS IN THE NATURE OF AN HISTORIC DOCUMENT AUTHORED AS IT IS BY THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR U.S. POLICY DURING THE INVASION. I THEREFORE FEEL THAT, WHETHER THEY LIKE IT OR NOT, LISTENERS IN ALL OUR COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE JOHNSON STATEMENT. SINCE BOTH EDITORIAL JUDGMENT AND/OR POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN THIS PROBLEM, I WOULD APPRECIATE A RULING FROM YOU SOONEST, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE PROGRAM IS PREPARED FOR WEDNESDAYS TDR. THANKS AND REGARDS

END MSG