

JUL 22 17:56

INCOMING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: 0

NYC 83 22 JULY 68
TO WALTER
FROM PETZALL INFO DURKEE
1208 PM

FYI, JEFF ENDRST SPOKE TO CETEKA UN CORRESPONDENT, KRAL, TODAY AND KRAL VOLUNTEERED SOME BACKGROUND ON WHY HE ASKED FOR U THANT'S POSITION ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA-- SEE ENDRST SPECIAL SENT AS P/9, 7/19. APPARENTLY KRAL ACTED COMPLETELY ON HIS OWN. HE WENT TO THE CS MISSION TO CONFER WITH SEVERAL OFFICIALS THERE ABOUT HIS INTENTION TO POSE THIS QUESTION TO U THANT, AND WAS TOLD THAT THIS WOULD NOT HELP AND MIGHT PROVE EMBARRASSING, AND THEY WOULD REALLY PREFER THAT KRAL NOT DO IT. KRAL SAID HE ANSWERED THEM THAT HE WAS NOT THERE TO ASK PERMISSION BUT ONLY WANTED THEIR OPINION AND THAT "EITHER WE HAVE A FREE PRESS OR WE DON'T" AND THEN WENT AHEAD ON HIS OWN.

I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE OF INTEREST SINCE OTHER WESTERN REPORTAGE OF KRAL'S QUESTIONS AND U THANT'S DECLINING TO ANSWER LEFT THE IMPLICATION THAT KRAL MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRAGUE TO SEEK UN HELP, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS NOT THE CASE.
END MSG