

COMING CIPHER MESSAGE

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NYC111 26 SEPT 68

SEP 26

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

246PM

VLADIMIR TILL, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF CETEKA, ARRIVED IN NEW YORK WEDNESDAY NIGHT. HE TOLD CETEKA PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK THAT HE WOULD STAY FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS AND THAT HE WAS IN NEW YORK ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, KAREL DUDA.

HE SAID HIS TITLE WAS "NORTH-AMERICAN DIRECTOR" OF THE CETEKA AGENCY.

ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGABLE CZECH SOURCES AT THE U.N., TILL IS MARRIED TO A RUSSIAN AND HIS VIEWS HAVE NEVER CEASED TO BE CONSERVATIVE. HE HAS NEVER MADE ANY BONES ABOUT HIS CONVICTION THAT LIBERALIZATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS UNNECESSARY, FOOLISH AND DANGEROUS.

MEANWHILE, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE U.N. CORRESPONDENT'S ASSOCIATION HAD ANOTHER STORMY SESSION WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ON WHETHER OR NOT THE ASSOCIATION SHOULD GET INVOLVED IN THE CASE OF KAREL KRAL, WHO WAS RECALLED TO PRAGUE THREE WEEKS AGO NEXT MONDAY. A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF UNCA IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON TO BRING THIS QUESTION INTO THE OPEN. THERE ARE SEVERAL DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FLOATING AROUND. SOME OF THEM CONSIDER KRAL'S SUDDEN RECALL TO PRAGUE THE RESULT OF HIS PERSONAL REMARKS THREE WEEKS AGO AT THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB ON THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. OTHERS ARGUE EQUALLY STRONGLY THAT HIS RECALL IS A POLITICAL QUESTION, WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DRAGGED INTO A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION LIKE UNCA.

KRAL DOES NOT INTEND TO ATTEND THE MEETING.

HE TOLD A FEW INTIMATE FRIENDS THURSDAY THAT HE HAD A PERSONAL CHAT WITH THE NEW PRAGUE AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N., ZDENEK CERNIK. CERNIK TOLD HIM THAT HIS RECALL TO PRAGUE WAS A DECISION MADE BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ITSELF. HE ALSO SAID THAT KRAL'S
(MORE)

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JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES IN RECENT MONTHS HAD COME UP FOR DISCUSSION EVEN AT THE CIERNA MEETING.

OTHER INFORMANTS TOLD KRAL THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK MISSION TO THE U.N., IN AN APPARENT REACTION TO KRAL'S EARLIER PUBLISHED CHARGES THAT MANY OF THE MISSION'S MEMBERS WERE IN THE EMPLOY OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, COMPLAINED TO PRAGUE THAT THIS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTACK ON FORMER AMBASSADOR MILAN KLUSAK, AND THEREFORE ALSO ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNTRY, WHO IS THE FATHER-IN-LAW OF KLUSAK.

THIS IS THE REPORTED REASON WHY KRAL WAS DISCUSSED AT CIERNA.

KRAL TOLD FRIENDS TODAY THAT HE RECEIVED HIS SALARY FOR AUGUST AND THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE CETEKA IN PRAGUE THAT HIS SEPTEMBER SALARY "IS BEING HANDLED."

HE STILL HESITATES AS TO WHEN EXACTLY AND WHAT EXACTLY HE SHOULD SAY, ALTHOUGH HIS BASIC DECISION APPEARS TO BE UNCHANGED. HE FEELS THAT PERHAPS NEXT MONDAY, OR SOON AFTERWARDS, WHEN THE THREE WEEK PERIOD SUGGESTED BY PRAGUE FOR HIS ATTENTION TO PERSONAL OBLIGATIONS IN NEW YORK EXPIRES, COULD BE A NATURAL DEPARTURE POINT WITHER FOR HIS AGENCY OR HIMSELF. HE STILL SAYS THAT WHATEVER FORM HIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL TAKE, IT WILL NOT BE ANYTHING NASTY OR CRITICAL OF HIS OWN SUPERIORS, WHOM HE DOES NOT HOLD RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SITUATION.
END MSG