

FEB 22

14:09

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

TO: 0

MUN 64

22 FEB 68

TO: SCHNEIDER INFO MOXLEY

FM: WALTER INFO COLLINS COOK DIAMOND LYON REYMAN

22/1326

ALTHOUGH WE HAD THOUGHT NOTHING SAID OR WRITTEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD ASTONISH US ANY MORE, WE ARE FORCED EVERY DAY TO REVISE OUR CONSIDERATIONS UPWARD. WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF SUPERLATIVES TO DESCRIBE WHAT WE SEE EVERY DAY. (WE ARE SENDING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AS DESK SPECIALS, AND IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THESE ITEMS BE READ BY ALL THE DESK CHIEFS AND NOT ONLY BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKS.) IT IS EVIDENT THAT NOTHING GOING ON ANYWHERE--INCLUDING VIETNAM, BUDAPEST, OR WHATEVER--IS OF SUCH FUNDAMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FUTURE OF EAST EUROPE AS WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT THIS MOMENTOUS TIME.

WE ARE URGING BD'S HERE TO DEVOTE MAXIMUM ATTENTION, BOTH IN COMMENTARY AND IN OTHER PROGRAMS (PRESS REVIEWS, QUOTATIONS FROM CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO BROADCASTS, ETC.) TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA EVEN, IF NECESSARY, IF IT MEANS ALTERATION OF SOME PROGRAM SERIES OR CUTTING DOWN OF CONTRIBUTIONS ON OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH MIGHT NORMALLY BE CONSIDERED OF VALUE. THIS COULD MEAN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FROM TIME TO TIME NEW YORK CONTRIBUTIONS COULD BE DELAYED OR EVEN CANCELLED, AND IF SUCH IS THE CASE, I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WILL BE DONE AS SMOOTHLY-- AND WITH AS MUCH UNDERSTANDING-- ON BOTH SIDES AS POSSIBLE.

END MSG