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FBIS 181 (OUT OF SEQUENCE)

ROMANIAN TROOP DISPOSITION

VIENNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN GERMAN 1835 GMT 23 AUG 68 A

(SEE LAST GRAPH)

(TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN VIENNA RADIO REPORTER HELMUT BOCK
AND BUCHAREST CORRESPONDENT MANFRED SHIFTER--LIVE)

(TEXT) QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE MILITARY
PARADE TODAY ?

ANSWER : YES I CAN. IT WAS VERY INTERESTING. IT WAS LONGER THAN
PARADES OF THE PAST FEW YEARS, AND THE STRIKING THING ABOUT IT
WAS THE FACT THAT THE DEMONSTRATION OF MILITARY MIGHT WAS
SOMEWHAT RESTRAINED . ONE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT IT WAS PRIMARILY
THE 80 BATTALIONS OF ARMED WORKERS MILITIA WHICH WERE TO BE
SHOWN TO THE ASSEMBLED MILITARY ATTACHES
OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS--ABOUT 8,000 MEN WHO MARCHED PAST
THE REVIEWING STAND FOR ALMOST HALF AN HOUR.

QUESTION: IS THIS NOT THE VERY FORCE WHICH WAS MOBILIZED ONLY
A SHORT TIME AGO ?

ANSWER : YES, QUITE TRUE. THIS IS THE WORKERS MILITIA,
CONSISTING OF RESERVE TROOPS AND OLD SOLDIERS. BUT ONE MUST NOT
THINK OF VETERANS. THESE ARE MEN OF 30, 40, OR , AT MOST, 45 YEARS,
WHO HAVE NOW RECEIVED ARMS AND HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES FOR 3 YEARS.

QUESTION : WAS THE SUBJECT "CZECHOSLOVAKIA" TOUCHED ON AT THIS
PARADE IN ANY FORM ?

ANSWER : YES, BECAUSE LATER ABOUT A QUARTER OF A MILLION
PEOPLE MARCHED PAST WITH THE USUAL POSTERS , WHICH THIS YEAR DISPLAYED
GREETINGS AND SOLIDARITY MESSAGES TO BROTHERLY CZECHOSLOVAK
COMMUNISTS. THIS TIME IT WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF POLITICAL UNITY,
OF MORALE, AND OF LOYALTY TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE .

QUESTION: TODAY WE RECEIVED VARIOUS REPORTS FROM RUMANIA
WHICH WERE VERY CONTRADICTORY . ONE WAS ALARMING. IT
SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALREADY MARCHED INTO RUMANIA. THIS
HAS MEANWHILE BEEN PROVED FALSE .

ANSWER: THIS REPORT WAS DOUBTLESS EXAGGERATED. I HAVE PERMANENT
CONTACTS WITH THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY, AND SOMETHING WOULD HAVE
HAD TO BE KNOWN THERE ABOUT THESE RUMORS . HOWEVER , ONE THING IS
CORRECT. ALONG THE PRUT RIVER--THIS IS THE NATURAL BORDER BETWEEN
SOVIET AND RUMANIAN TERRITORY --TROOPS ARE STANDING FACE
TO FACE . DOUBTLESS THE REDUCED MILITARY DEMONSTRATION AT THE PARADE
WAS DUE TO THE PRACTICAL FACT THAT THERE ARE FEWER TROOPS IN
BUCHAREST. IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT TROOP MOVEMENTS HAVE TAKEN
PLACE AND THAT LARGE ENTERPRISES ARE BEING GUARDED . THE BUILDING
FROM WHICH I AM NOW MAKING THIS TELEPHONE CALL IS ALSO BEING
WATCHED BY THE SECURITY SERVICE. MILITIA TROOPS ARE ON THE
ROADS. THE EMBASSIES CONTINUE TO BE GUARDED ALTHOUGH VERY DISCREETLY.

23 AUG 2136Z PAK/HH

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