



Department of State

Iceland
TELEGRAM 94
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ACTION EUR 20

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P R 220940Z AUG 68

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 863

INFO CINCLANT POLAD

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 649

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

SACLANT PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ADMIRAL EPHRAIM P. HOLMES, SACLANT, ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO ICELAND AUGUST 20-22 AT INVITATION OF GOI HELD NEWS CONFERENCE REYKJAVIK WEDNESDAY PRIMARILY TO SPEAK OF THE PART THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE PLAYS IN JOINT DEFENSE SYSTEM OF NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

2. QUERIED ABOUT EVENTS CZECHOSLOVAKIA HE SAID, "THE EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE AT THIS DISTANCE RATHER DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE. FIRST OF ALL, WE DON'T KNOW THE FACTS RIGHT NOW. I AM SURE THAT THE NATO STAFF WAS AWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON IN EASTERN EUROPE AS I AM SURE EVERYBODY HAS BEEN. IT IS VERY, VERY DIFFICULT TO TELL IF ANYBODY ANTICIPATED THESE EVENTS. THE EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON IN EASTERN EUROPE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED AND THEY'RE BEING FOLLOWED QUITE CLOSELY TODAY, I'M SURE."

3. COMMENTS ON NATO WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY. HENRY

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