

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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EMBASSY TEL 1434, LONDON'S 1240

PAN AM REPRESENTATIVE WENZEL SAYS THAT AT TECHNICAL LEVEL CZECHS HAVE CONCLUDED THEY DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH PURCHASE OF SOVIET IL 62 CRAFT SCHEDULED FOR 1967 DELIVERY. UNCERTAINTY THAT SUCH AIRCRAFT WOULD OBTAIN AIR WORTHINESS CERTIFICATES BIG FACTOR IN DECISION. THIS INTRODUCES POSSIBILITY CZECHS WILL NOW SERIOUSLY ENTER MARKET FOR WESTERN AIRCRAFT.

AIR ATTACHE SEES SOME PROFIT TO CZECHS IN USING SAME TYPE AIRCRAFT THAT PAN AM USES IN FLYING HERE THEREBY REDUCING MAINTENANCE PROBLEM IN PRAGUE AND EVENTUALLY IN US IF CSA RECEIVES PERMISSION FOR FLIGHTS. THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE SOME OVERTURES TO WENZEL ABOUT JOINT TRAINING PROGRAM IN ENGINE MAINTENANCE OF WESTERN CRAFT. HOWEVER, CREDIT MIGHT LOOM AS FACTOR INFLUENCING CZECHS TO BRITISH OR FRENCH PLANES. THIS IS THINKING CSA TECHNICAL LEVEL AND TOP LEVEL MINISTRY NOT YET SOLD.

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By us, NARA Date 10-30-98

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