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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
YUGOSLAVIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the situation in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, issued on 22 August 1968, and which reads as follows:

"The Federal Executive Council expresses its grave concern over the illegal entry of the armed forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic and the People's Republic of Bulgaria into the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and condemns the occupation of its territory.

"The armed intervention by the aforementioned countries, which has taken place without invitation and against the will of the Government and other constitutional organs of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, constitutes a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent country, as well as a direct denial of generally recognized principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is of the opinion that no State, or a group of States, has the right to decide the fate of another country and its internal development, nor to undertake measures contrary to the publicly declared wishes of the people and constitutional organs of a country.

"The military intervention against the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the invasion of its territory, can in no way be justified, even more so since this socialist country does not threaten anyone nor has it - as unequivocally stated by the legitimate Government and other constitutional institutions of the Republic - felt threatened.

"The Governments of those countries that are taking part in the military intervention against the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, are assuming the full responsibility for the far-reaching consequences of their actions. The armed intervention against the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic constitutes a direct encouragement of the policy of force, of aggression and of dangerous practice of continuous interference in the internal affairs and unhampered development of other countries. The negative consequences will not only affect the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, but also the interests and relations of other countries, their internal security and stability of peace in Europe and in the world.

"Expressing its full solidarity - in these grave moments - with the people of Czechoslovakia, the Government and other constitutionally and legally elected leading forums of the country, the Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, extends its full support to the demands of these legitimate representatives of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, for the withdrawal of the occupation forces, for the respect of independence and territorial integrity of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, for the respect of the sovereignly expressed will of the people of Czechoslovakia and for making possible the normal functioning of the constitutional bodies and political forums of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

"The Government of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addresses itself to the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, in the expectation that they shall undertake urgent measures so as to end, without delay the occupation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic."

I should be very grateful if this statement could be immediately circulated to all the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Zivojin JAZIC  
Deputy Permanent Representative