

GRS 250

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FM WARSAW 171430Z MAR

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 189 OF 17 MARCH

INFO MOSCOW, STOCKHOLM.

mb

1. THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME TODAY TO TELL ME THAT THE SCANDINAVIAN AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW HAD TELEGRAPHED TO THEIR CAPITALS TO SAY THAT THEY THOUGHT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN POLAND MIGHT BE IMMINENT. MR MOLTKE-HANSEN SAID THAT HE AND HIS SWEDISH COLLEAGUE IN WARSAW DID NOT AGREE BUT HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER WE HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR VIEWS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND WHETHER, INDEPENDENTLY OF THAT, WE THOUGHT INTERVENTION IMMINENT.

2. I SAID THAT WE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM LONDON OR MOSCOW TO SUGGEST CONFIRMATION OF THE VIEWS OF THE SCANDINAVIANS IN MOSCOW. BEYOND THAT, WHILE CERTAINLY NOT EXCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET INVASION, WE DID NOT THINK IT IMMINENT OR INEVITABLE. IN PARTICULAR, WE DID NOT THINK THE WARSAW PACT EXERCISES WERE BEING STAGED AS A CREEPING INVASION.

3. MR MOLTKE-HANSEN SAID (IN CONFIDENCE) THAT THE SWEDISH ALARM AND PRECAUTIONARY ACTION TAKEN LAST DECEMBER HAD ARISEN FROM A TELEGRAM SENT BY THE SWEDISH MILITARY ATTACHE. ENTIRELY UNKNOWN TO THE AMBASSADOR OR THE REST OF THE EMBASSY, THE ATTACHE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO STOCKHOLM IN A SPECIAL CYPHER SAYING THAT TWO DIVISIONS WERE MOVING INTO POLAND FROM THE SOUTH AND THAT IN EFFECT INVASION HAD VIRTUALLY BEGUN. THE AMBASSADOR KNEW NOTHING OF THIS UNTIL THE TELEGRAM REACHED STOCKHOLM AND ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN ON IT.

PRIDHAM

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