

of Czechoslovakia is a great blow to the prestige of the Soviet Union itself.

Mr. Blakely: Sir, back to the occupation of Hungary more than a decade ago; we gave asylum to a very great number of refugees. Is there any indication that there might be a similar if somewhat smaller flow of refugees this time, and that we would again offer asylum to any Czechoslovaks wishing to come to Canada?

Mr. Sharp: Well, Canada always has the welcome mat out for people of this kind. I can't answer the first question as to whether greater numbers would want to come or whether they would be permitted to come. Czechoslovakia has, as my information leads me to believe, been occupied, and the significance of that occupation of course relates to the question of the ability of Czechoslovaks to leave the country.

Mr. Walz: Mr. Sharp, has there been or do you contemplate any contact between your Government and the United States Government about this development?

Mr. Sharp: Oh, yes, I expect that there will be many contacts. The United States Government so far as I know, unless anything has happened in the last few hours, has not yet issued a statement. We are of course in touch with the United States Government in New York since they are members of the Security Council and in Brussels, as they are members of NATO, so there are many contacts. I haven't personally had any direct contacts as yet with the Secretary of State.

Mr. Scott: Sir, there seems to be a slight cooling off of relations here between Canada and the Soviet Union as a result of this, but is there any suspicion or do you contemplate any