

X/13 C/S - ITALIAN PARTY DIRECTORATE TO MEET ON CSSR

ROME, AUG. 21 .- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON) .- AN URGENT, EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTYS TOP-LEVEL DIRECTORATE HAS BEEN CONVENED FOR THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SOVIET AND OTHER NEIGHBORING TROOPS.

"WE ARE HOPING TO HOLD THE MEETING AROUND 1000 HOURS," SAID A SPOKESMAN AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS HERE.

"BUT WE ARE FINDING DIFFICULTY IN ROUNDING UP THE MEMBERS AS MANY OF THEM ARE STILL OUT OF ROME ON VACATION."

REFUSING TO MAKE ANY OFFICIAL EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION, THE SPOKESMAN WOULD ONLY SAY:

"THE NEWS AROUSES GREAT EMOTION AND CONCERN FOR THE ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MOVEMENT.

"AFTER THE DIRECTORATE MEETING THIS MORNING THERE WILL BE AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY OUR PARTY."

MA/HE/1705

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