

CN 75

X/13 CS - SWEDISH COMMUNISTS SURPRISED (WITH CN - 65)

STOCKHOM, AUG 21 (RFE SPECIAL/DH) - THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER, CARL-HENRIK HERMANSSON, SAID THIS MORNING THAT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD COME AS "A GREAT SHOCK."

"NO-ONE EXPECTED THIS," HERMANSSON TOLD A SWEDISH RADIO NEWS REPORTER.

HERMANSSON NOTED THAT THERE WERE SOME REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS AND OTHERS HAD SENT TROOPS IN AT CZECHOSLOVAK REQUEST AND ONE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT SOME TIME TO GET THE ENTIRE PICTURE. BUT HE ADDED:

"DECISIVE IS HOLDING FAST AND TRUE TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR AFFAIRS."

HERMANSSON SAID IF THE MAJORITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS DID NOT WANT THE WARSAW/PACT SOLDIERS IN THEIR COUNTRY THEN "THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION."

HERMANSSON WAS ASKED HOW HE WOULD VIEW THE MATTER IF ONLY A MINORITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP WANTED THE SOVIETS IN. "IN THAT CASE, ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE SHARPLY AGAINST THIS DEVELOPMENT (WARSAW PACT/TROOPS INVASION)," HE ANSWERED.

HERMANSSON SAID HE HOPED THE ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SWEDISH NATIONAL ELECTION SEPT. 15. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS WOULD IMPACT ON HIS PARTY CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN RESULTS.

JON/HE/1701

0927/68

A