

X/13 CS -- WEST GERMANS CONDEMN OCCUPATION

MUNICH, AUG 21 (DPA/GND) -- WEST GERMAN LEADERS CONDEMNED THIS MORNING THE WARSAW PACT OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS THE CABINET PREPARED TO MEET IN BONN.

BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT EUGEN GERSTENMAIER SAID THE PARTICIPATION OF EAST GERMAN TROOPS WAS A SCANDAL. FINANCE MINISTER FRANZ-JOSEF STRAUSS SAID THE OCCUPATION SHOWED THE "TRUE FACE" OF THE SOVIET UNION.

THE WEST GERMAN CABINET WILL MEET AT 1000 MT TODAY AND WILL ISSUE A STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE MEETING, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

AN EARLIER MEETING OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT 0800 MT - CALLED TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE CZECHOSLOVAKIA DEVELOPMENTS. OFFICIALS FROM THE FOREIGN, DEFENSE AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES JOINED THE MEETING.

FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT, VACATIONING IN NORWAY, WILL RETURN TO BONN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, A SPOKESMAN SAID.

DEFENSE MINISTER GERHARD SCHROEDER, VACATIONING ON SYLT, WAS FLOWN BACK TO BONN BY A BUNDESWEHR AIRCRAFT.

CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER, WHO WAS INFORMED EARLY THIS MORNING, CHAIRED THE 0800 MT MEETING, AND THE FLOOR LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE OPPOSITION FREE DEMOCRATS WERE ADMITTED TO THE MEETING AT KIESINGER'S REQUEST. THE SOCIALIST FLOOR LEADER, HELMUT SCHMIDT, IS/NOTRPT NOT IN BONN AND THE PARTY IS BEING REPRESENTED BY ITS BUSINESS MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HANS-JUERGEN WISCHNEWSKI.

(MORE) MBW/A/120/1000/68 AUG 21