

X/13 VATICAN - POPE EXPRESSES FEAR OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CASTELGANDOLFO, AUG21.-(RFE SPECIAL/WILSON).-

POPE PAUL ;VI, IN PUBLIC AUDIENCE HERE THIS MORNING,
EXPRESSED HIS FEARS OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIAN EVENTS.

ADDRESSING A GROUP OF PILGRIMS FROM PRAGUE, THE
POPE SAID"

"WE LEARN BY READING THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS
THAT GRAVE EVENTS ARE HANGING OVER YOUR COUNTRY, OVER
CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"AND THE APPEARANCE OF FORCE THAT THESE ASSUME CAN NOT RPT
NOT BUT AROUSE IN OUR SOUL TOO GREAT TREPIDATION, WHICH IS
CERTAINLY SHARED BY THE WHOLE OF THE NATION AND WHICH ALSO PERTURBS
WORLD PUBLIC OPINION.

"WE WISH TO HOPE THAT CONFLICTS OF VIOLENCE AND OF BLOODSHED
MAY BE AVOIDED AND THAT THE DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF A PEOPLE,
JEALOUS OF ITS DESTINY, WILL NOT RPT NOT BE VIOLATED.

"WE PRAY THAT WISDOM WILL PREVAIL OVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE
CONFLICT AND THAT PEACE MAY BE ASSURED TO THE LIFE OF THESE
PEOPLE.

"TOWARDS THIS END WE WILL NOT RPT NOT FAIL TO LIFT OUR FERVENT
PRAYERS AND YOURS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE LACKING."

BMCG/A 11/1044/68

147