

C/S - THE BRATISLAVA MEETING

MUNICH, AUG 21 (CNR) - ONLY 17 DAYS AGO ALEXANDER DUBCEK WAS SAYING THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY HAD WON "NEEDED BREATHING SPACE FOR OUR REVIVING SOCIALIST FORCES..."

"AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND CONFIDENCE IS BEING CREATED FOR OUR FURTHER SUCCESSFUL WORK," HE SAID.

"FEARS ABOUT OUR SOVEREIGNTY ARE BASELESS."

THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CHIEF WAS SPEAKING IN A RADIO ADDRESS TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST SUMMIT AT BRATISLAVA.

FOR A FEW DAYS IT APPEARED THAT THIS MEETING BETWEEN DUBCEK AND THE SOVIET, EAST GERMAN, HUNGARIAN, BULGARIAN, AND POLISH PARTY LEADERS HAD ENDED THE TENSION AND POLEMICS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ITS ALLIES.

THE SIX COUNTRIES PLEDGED IN A COMMUNIQUE TO "DO EVERYTHING NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES, ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, OBSERVANCE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, BROTHERLY MUTUAL AID AND SOLIDARITY."

THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS WENT FAR BEYOND THESE DRY WORDS IN DISCUSSING THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN JOSEF SMRKOVSKY, ADDRESSING A JUBILANT BRATISLAVA CROWD, DECLARED "EVERYTHING WENT WELL. WE HAVE DONE HONEST WORK FOR OUR COUNTRY, FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

HE WAS CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY CHEERS AND ROARS OF "LONG LIVE THE SOVIET UNION" AS HE MADE A POINT OF PAYING SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SOVIET PARTY LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV.

DUBCEK, IN HIS RADIO SPEECH THE NEXT DAY, DECLARED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENTS REACHED BEYOND THOSE LISTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE AND HE WELCOMED THE - AS IT TURNED OUT, SHORT-LIVED - ENDING OF POLEMICS.

HE PLEDGED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD NOT RETREAT FROM THE PATH ALONG WHICH IT HAD STARTED IN JANUARY.

DUBCEK THANKED THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT, WHICH HE CALLED "A STRONG FORCE AND A VALUABLE CAPITAL WHICH WILL BE OUR GUIDING STAR."

SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, HE SAID "ONLY WHEN WE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY SHALL STAND IN THE FIRST TRANK, ONLY WHEN WE SHALL BE ALL THE TIME CONNECTED WITH ALL THE CITIZENS, ONLY WHEN WE SHALL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, WILL BE BIGGEST FORCE WHICH WE POSSESS -- THE UNITY BETWEEN THE PARTY AND THE PEOPLE - GROW AND RENEW ITSELF."

BG/HE 1102/68