

## C/S - THE CIERNA NAD TISOU TALKS

MUNICH, AUGUST 21 (CNR) - CIERNA NAD TISOU IS A SMALL TOWN ON THE SOVIET-SLOVAK BORDER NOTABLE UNTIL THREE WEEKS AGO ONLY FOR THE FACT THAT FOR TRAINS GOING IN EITHER DIRECTION IT WAS THE END OF THE LINE.

IT WAS HERE, IN A MEETING UNPRECEDENTED IN COMMUNIST HISTORY, THAT THE POLITBURO OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CONFRONTED THE PRESIDUM OF CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AT THE CLIMAX OF WEEKS OF MOUNTING TENSION, NAME-CALLING AND TROOP MOVEMENTS.

FOR FOUR DAYS THEY SAT ACROSS THE TABLE FROM EACH OTHER IN THE TOWN'S RAILWAY MAN'S CLUB - THE SOVIETS RETURNING TO THEIR OWN SIDE OF THE BORDER TO SLEEP IN A TRAIN.

ALL THE WHILE THE WORLD'S PRESS FRANTICALLY PROWLED AROUND A POLICE CORDON AROUND THE TOWN, TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON.

CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK HAD PLEDGED IN SPEECHES BEFORE THE MEETING THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD NOT BE DIVERTED FROM ITS PATH BY ANYONE.

HE HAD APPEALED TO THE PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM, PROMISING THAT HE WOULD OBTAIN GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THE MEETING.

AFTER FOUR DAYS OF APPARENTLY HARD BARGAINING DURING WHICH, HE LATER INDICATED, HE HAD VERY LITTLE SLEEP, THE PLUCKY SLOVAK APPEARED TO HAVE WON THE DAY.

THE TERSE COMMUNIQUE AFTER THE SUMMIT MADE NO MENTION OF SOME OF THE MAJOR POINTS AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT MERELY ANNOUNCED THE CONVENING TWO DAYS LATER OF THE BRATISLAVA SUMMIT OF SIX COMMUNIST PARTIES, THE MEETING WHICH, WHEN HELD, APPEARED TO LIFT THE PRESSURE OFF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS LEFT CIERNA NAD TISOU SAYING THE COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED AND THAT THE COUNTRY HAD BEEN GIVEN THE CALM IT NEEDED TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS REFORMS.

"ALL IS WELL," THE WEARY DUBCEK TOLD REPORTERS.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEADER JOSEF SMRKOVSKY TOLD A CHEERING CROWD: "WE HAVE RETURNED HOME, THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST PARTY SECRETARY, AND I ... WITH THE DEEP CONVICTION THAT WE HAVE RETURNED WITH HONOR, WITH HONOR.

"WE HAVE FULFILLED THE TASK WITH WHICH OUR PEOPLE HAVE ENTRUSTED US."

PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA WENT ON TELEVISION TO TELL HIS PEOPLE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD NOT ABANDON THE COURSE IT HAD BEGUN IN JANUARY.

BUT HE REMINDED THEM, AS CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS HAD DONE REPEATEDLY SINCE JANUARY, THAT THE COUNTRY WAS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

THE COUNTRY COULD NOT RPT NOT SURVIVE SEPARATED FROM THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, HE SAID. ANYONE TRYING TO CHANGE THIS WOULD FIND HIMSELF IN ISOLATION, HE SAID.

BG/HE 1705

1135/68