

X/13 EURO - NENNI SEES INVASION AS BLOW TO SOCIALISM (W/CN 107)

ROME, AUG. 21 .- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON) .- THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS A GRAVE ORDEAL FOR THE WORLD "SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, PIETRO NENNI, VETERAN SOCIALIST LEADER, SAID THIS MORNING.

REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT CRANS, IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE HE HAS BEEN VACATIONING PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL IN COPENHAGEN, NENNI SAID:

"THE SERIOUS EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN PRAGUE HAVE SUBJECTED TO VERY HARSH ORDEAL PRIMARILY THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS.

"THEY HAVE ALSO SUBJECTED TO GRAVE ORDEAL THE WORLD SOCIALIST MOVEMENT.

"I AM LEAVING FOR COPENHAGEN FOR THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. DURING OUR WORK WE WILL EXAMINE WITH ALL NECESSARY ATTENTION THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION AND WHAT ATTITUDE THE SOCIALIST PARTIES SHOULD ADOPT.

"OUR SOLIDARITY, FULL AND ABSOLUTE -- IT IS SUPERFLUOUS TO SAY -- GOES OUT TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND ITS LEADERS. I BELIEVE THAT THE MORAL FORCES OF FREEDOM WILL BE CAPABLE OF FACING UP TO THE BRUTAL STRENGTH OF ARMS."

MA/A/m 1135/68 *h*