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X/13 CSSR -- SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SHARPLY CONDEMNS RUSSIANS (W/CN 107)

STOCKHOLM, AUG. 21 (RFE SPECIAL/HENRY) -- THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ISSUED A SHARP CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET AND OTHER WARSAW PACT ARMIES' INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT MID-MORNING TODAY.

THE STATEMENT PLEDGED THE WARMEST SYMPATHY OF THE SWEDISH PEOPLE WITH THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE STATEMENT CAME AROUND 1100 MT AND READ:

"WE HAVE, WITH DISMAY, THIS MORNING LEARNED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAVE INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH MILITARY FORCE. THIS MEANS THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE INTERRUPTING THE DEVELOPMENT TOWARD GREATER FREEDOM WHICH WAS UNDERWAY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND WANT TO RE-ESTABLISH THERE A REGIME WHICH TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE REPRESENTS 20 YEARS OF OPPRESSION AND LACK OF FREEDOM.

"IT HAS THUS ONCE AGAIN HAPPENED THAT IN A COMMUNIST COUNTRY A FREEDOM MOVEMENT HAS BEEN STOPPED WITH VIOLENCE. THIS HAS TAKEN PLACE AGAINST ALL ASSURANCES OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, A PRINCIPLE WHICH WAS MOST RECENTLY CONFIRMED IN THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MEETING IN BRATISLAVA BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE STATES THAT HAVE NOW INVADED THE COUNTRY.

"THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION WAS ALSO EXPRESSED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT AFTER THE VISIT OF THE SOVIET LEADER TO SWEDEN RECENTLY.

"WE HAVE ALL, WITH WARM SYMPATHY, FOLLOWED THE CZECHOSLOVAK DEVELOPMENT TOWARD GREATER FREEDOM. WE HAVE SHARED THE HOPES FOR SUCCESS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, WHICH COULD ALSO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BRINGING THE EUROPEAN PEOPLES IN EAST AND WEST CLOSER TOGETHER.

"WE MUST NOW FEAR THAT THE TENDENCY HERETOFORE OF DETENTE IS INTERRUPTED AND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AGAIN DETERIORATES.

"THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE CURRENT EVENTS AND EXPRESSES THE CONDOLENCE OF THE SWEDISH PEOPLE REGARDING THE GRIEF AND DISAPPOINTMENT WHICH HAS HIT THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE GOVERNMENT HOWEVER EXPRESSES ITS HOPES THAT THE TIME WILL NOT BE TOO DISTANT WHEN FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS WILL OVERCOME VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION."

THE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AS THE OFFICIAL SWEDISH GOVERNMENT VIEWPOINT BUT WAS NOT SIGNED. IT WAS ISSUED AFTER THE CABINET HAD HELD A MORNING MEETING.

BMCG/A/11/1200/68

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