

X/13 E/W - BONN DEFERS DECISION OF TALKS WITH GDR

BONN, AUG 21 (RFE SPECIAL/DEWITT)- BECAUSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION THE BONN CABINET TODAY DEFERRED A DECISION ON PROJECTED TALKS WITH EAST BERLIN ON ECONOMIC TOPICS.

THE DECISION TO DELAY A RESPONSE TO THE BID FROM EAST GERMAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER HORST SOELLE FOR A MEETING WITH ECONOMICS MINISTER KARL SCHILLER WAS TAKEN HERE THIS MORNING IN A TWO-HOUR SESSION OF THE CABINET WHICH FOLLOWED A SPECIAL MEETING OF CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER WITH KEY MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS.

SOELLES OFFER OF ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH SCHILLER WAS TRANSMITTED TO BONN LAST FRIDAY. KIESINGER AND SCHILLER, AS WELL AS THE LEADERS OF THE TWO COALITION PARTIES HAD ALREADY APPROVED THE TALKS, AND THE CABINET WAS EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS APPROVAL TODAY. THE FACT THAT THE CABINET TODAY VOTED TO DELAY A RESPONSE WAS THE RESULT OF THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN SAID.

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