

X13 CURT -- DANISH GOVERNMENT: CSSR SITUATION A TRAGEDY

COPENHAGEN, AUG. 21 (RFE SPECIAL/THOMSON) -- THE DANISH GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT AT NOON DEPLORING THE TURN OF EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE STATEMENT CAME AFTER A 90-MINUTE CABINET MEETING AND READ:

"THE DEVELOPMENT LAST NIGHT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AROUSES THE DEEPEST CONCERN, ALSO HERE IN DENMARK. FOR ALL PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES, IT MUST BE FELT AS A TRAGEDY. WE HAVE FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH EXPECTATIONS, CONFIDENT THIS WOULD LEAD TO A MELTING OF THE FROZEN FRONTS IN EUROPE, WHICH COULD GIVE HOPES FOR FURTHER STEPS ON THE WAY TO RELAXATION OF TENSION.

"THE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE NIGHT IS A SERIOUS SETBACK FOR ALL POSITIVE FORCES IN THE ENTIRE WORLD WHO HOPE FOR DISARMAMENT, GREATER FREEDOM AMONG PEOPLES AND FOR A GRADUAL RAPPROCHEMENT OF EAST AND WEST," THE STATEMENT SAID.

IN A BRIEF COMMENT, PRIME MINISTER BAUNSGAARD SAID IT IS "STILL UNCLEAR WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING ON IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA." HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WOULD STAY IN COPENHAGEN TO BE READY FOR EMERGENCY SESSIONS WHENEVER NECESSARY.

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