

CN 369

X4 C/S - TEXT OF CSSR FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT DEMANDING PULLOUT
(AMPL. CN 323).

PRAGUE, AUG 21 (CMD)-- THE OFFICIAL CZECHOSLOVAK CETEKA NEWS AGENCY TONIGHT CARRIED THE TEXT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE END OF MILITARY OCCUPATION AS FOLLOWS:

"ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 20 TO 21, 1968, THE AIR AND GROUND FORCES OF THE USSR, POLAND, THE G D R, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA MADE A JOINT CONCENTRATED INVASION OF THE TERRITORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE TROOPS PENETRATED INTO CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM MANY PLACES, OCCUPIED IMPORTANT POINTS AND IN A SHORT TIME OCCUPIED THE WHOLE TERRITORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT INEXPIABLE CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIAS RELATIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, THE CONSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE PRESIDUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA CALLED ON CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC TO KEEP CALM AND PUT UP NO RESISTANCE TO THE ADVANCING SOLDIERS. FOR THE SAME REASON THE ARMY, SECURITY FORCE AND PEOPLES MILITIA RECEIVED NO ORDER TO DEFEND THE COUNTRY. THIS STAND BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FACE TO FACE WITH THE FORCIBLE OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY WILL BE APPRECIATED BY HISTORY AS A CONTRIBUTION BY A SMALL COUNTRY TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA DECLARES THAT NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR ANY OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL BODY OF THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER AGREED TO THE INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE FORCIBLE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS AT VARIANCE WITH THE U N CHARTER, THE WARSAW TREATY AND THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

THE FIVE COUNTRIES BY COLLECTIVE ACTION UNDERTOOK AN ATTACK ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IN AN UNHEARD-OF WAY VIOLATED ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTRY NOTE GOES ON.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT MOST RESOLUTELY PROTESTS AGAINST THIS ACT. IN THE NAME OF THE WHOLE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, IN THE NAME OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND COOPERATION, IT DEMANDS OF THE U S S R GOVERNMENT THAT THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BE ENDED AND ALL TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN FROM CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES THE HOPE AT THIS HISTORIC MOMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION WILL UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION CREATED BY ARMED ACTION WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED IN ANY WAY, AND STILL LESS JUSTIFIED, AND THAT THEY WILL ENABLE THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, WHOSE FULL SUPPORT THEY ENJOY, TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE IN THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES IF ITS DEMAND FOR THE IMMEDIATE END OF THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS NOT COMPLIED WITH.

JM/U RT 2230/68

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