

X/4 C/S - BISHOPS URGE POPULATION TO REMAIN CALM

MUNICH, AUGUST 21 (CMD)-- CZECHOSLOVAK BISHOPS TODAY APPEALED TO THEIR COUNTRY'S POPULATION TO "MAINTAIN CALM AND PRUDENCE" AND NOT TO LET ITSELF BE PROVOKED INTO ACTS "INCOMPATIBLE WITH CHRISTIAN CONVICTION."

THEY ALSO URGED CZECHOSLOVAKS TO "PRAY TO THE LORD TO GRANT OUR LAND FREEDOM AND PEACE. WE FIRMLY STAND BEHIND THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR PEOPLE AND ASSURE THEM OF OUR UNSHAKEABLE SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY," CETEKA REPORTED.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST PARTY PRESIDUM MEANWHILE SAID THAT "NO CONSTITUTIONAL BODY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC HAS ASKED ANY SIGNATORY OF THE WARSAW TREATY FOR SUCH MILITARY INTERVENTION AND THUS THERE HAS BEEN A GROSS VIOLATION OF OUR STATE SOVEREIGNTY."

THE PRESIDUM WENT ON TO SAY, ACCORDING TO CETEKA, "THAT THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALSO HARMS THE INTERESTS NOT RPT NOT ONLY OF THE COMMUNITY OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BUT ALSO OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE WORLD."

THE PRESIDUM EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE "IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS FROM THE SOVEREIGN TERRITORY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA" IS THE "ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION" OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.

IT WENT ON TO EXPRESS THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S "FULL SUPPORT" OF CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA "AS THE ONLY LEGAL PRESIDENT OF OUR COUNTRY."

IT ALSO SAID IT SUPPORTED "THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HEADED BY CHAIRMAN JOSEF SMRKOVSKY AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT WITH PREMIER OLDRICH CERNIK." IT SAID IT STOOD "FULLY BEHIND THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY" HEADED BY ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

(MORE) JM/ O/ 2238/6

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