

VIENNA, AUG 21 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- IT IS NOT EASY TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA REPRESENTS ONLY A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMANITY OR WHETHER IT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF AN SOVIET IMPERIALISTIC AGGRESSION ALSO AIMED AGAINST OTHER COUNTRIES, PRAGUE PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR AND IDEOLOGIST IVAN SVITAK TOLD THE PRESS IN VIENNA ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.

SVITAK, WHO CAME TO THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL FROM INNSBRUCK, SAID THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS OF AUGUST 21 WILL BE A MILE-STONE MARKING A NEW PERIOD.

THE PRAGUE PHILOSOPHER DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE SOVIET INVASION AND THE YEAR 1938 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT ADDED THAT THE SOVIET OCCUPATION SEEMS FAR MORE TRAGIC.

ELABORATING ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE FUTURE, SVITAK SAID THAT THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL NOT BE AN EASY AFFAIR. "OUR PEOPLE KNOW TOO WELL THAT COLLABORATORS ARE BEING PUNISHED AND THAT AN OCCUPATION IS ONLY SOMETHING OF TEMPORARY NATURE."

"WE HAVE SURVIVED THE ONE THOUSAND YEAR GERMAN REICH AND WE SHALL SURVIVE ALSO THIS OCCUPATION", SVITAK SAID.

SPECULATING ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SVITAK SAID THAT THE SOVIET MOVE AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD BE EASILY ONLY A PRETEXT FOR COVERING UP INTERNAL SOVIET PROBLEMS AND A PRECAUTION DESIGNED TO PREVENT A CONTAMINATION OF THE SOVIET UNION BY WHAT SVITAK CALLED "THE CZECHOSLOVAK DISEASE."

QUESTIONED ABOUT FUTURE CZECHOSLOVAK ATTITUDES, SVITAK EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT PASSIVE RESISTANCE AND EVENTUALLY A GENERAL STRIKE WILL BE THE REACTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK WORKING CLASS TO THE SOVIET INTERVENTION.

REVIEWING EVENTS WHICH HAVE PRECEDED SOVIET INVASION, SVITAK STRESSED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO STRONG ANTI-SOVIET OR ANTI-RUSSIAN GROUPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. "BUT NOW EVERYBODY WILL NOTE THAT SLAVONIC IMPERIALISM IS NOT MUCH BETTER THAN GERMAN IMPERIALISM AND THIS WILL EASE NATIONAL PREJUDICES", SVITAK SAID.

ACCORDING TO SVITAK, CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED FREEDOM AND SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY.

"SUCH DEVELOPMENT IS IRREVERSIBLE," SVITAK SAID.