

X/4 C/S -- SIK, HAJEK TO DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY

MUNICH, AUG 22 (CMD) -- THE FOUR CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTERS CURRENTLY IN YUGOSLAVIA HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THEY "WILL PERFORM THEIR DUTIES... WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND WITH ALL FORCES EVEN OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY OF THE (CZECHOSLOVAK) REPUBLIC."

THE STATEMENT WAS TRANSMITTED AT MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT BY THE YUGOSLAV TANJUG NEWS AGENCY FROM BELGRADE, WHERE THE FOUR MINISTERS ARE NOW.

THEY ARE DEPUTY PREMIER OTA SIK, FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK, NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLANNING MINISTER FRANTISEK VLASAK AND CENTRAL PEOPLE'S CONTROL COMMISSIONER, STEFAN GASPARIK.

THE FOUR ENDORSED THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED IN PRAGUE YESTERDAY BY THE GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

THEY DESCRIBED AS BRUTAL AGGRESSION AND "A GROSS VIOLATION" THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY BY FOREIGN WARSAW PACT FORCES.

THE OCCUPATION VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW THE U.N. CHARTER AND THE PROVISIONS OF THE WARSAW TREATY.

THE STATEMENT DEMANDS THE "IMMEDIATE END OF THE OCCUPATION" AND THE RELEASE OF "INTERNED LEADING POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES" TO ENABLE THEM TO "MOVE FREELY AND TO FREELY EXECUTE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL OFFICES."

THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO DESCRIBE AS "DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO REALITY" CLAIMS BY THE SOVIET UNION, HUNGARY, POLAND, BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY "THAT MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT HAVE ASKED THESE COUNTRIES FOR HELP." SUCH CLAIMS ARE A "SHEER INVENTION AIMED AT JUSTIFYING THE AGGRESSION AND DECEIVING WORLD PUBLIC OPINION."

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