

X/13 CS - PIPINELIS ON CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION

ATHENS, AUG. 22- (RFE SPECIAL/OPPER) - THE ATHENS PRESS TODAY GRAVE PROMINENCE TO A STATEMENT ON THE INVASION

OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ISSUED YESTERDAY IN

SWITZERLAND BY VACATIONING GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER PANAYIOTIS PIPINELIS.

THE CROSSING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER BY SOVIET TROOPS, HE SAID, IS A ""DECISIVE EVENT WHICH WILL HAVE IMPORTANT REPERCUSSIONS ON BOTH EAST AND WEST"".

""THE MORAL DEFEAT OF THE SOVIETS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE MORAL DEFEAT OF THE WEST IF THE LATTER ACCEPTS THE FAIT ACCOMPLI"", MR. PIPINELIS SAID.""

""I THINK THAT GREECE CAN FEEL SATISFIED AT THIS MOMENT BECAUSE SHE IS IN A POSITION TO SECURE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE PART OF EUROPE IN WHICH SHE IS SITUATED AND BECAUSE SHE IS NOT RPT NOT OPEN, DUE TO INSTABILITY OF HER INTERNAL SITUATION, TO DEVELOPMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA"", THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON.

MR. PIPINELIS REMARKS CAME AS PRIME MINISTER GEORGE PAPA-DOPOULOS, SERVING AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN MR. PIPINELIS ABSENCE, CONFERRED SUCCESSIVELY WITH THE SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CONCERNING THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS.

THE PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ALSO CONFERRED WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR AND WITH THE ENVOYS OF BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND TURKEY.

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