

X/13 CURT.-- BRANDT STATEMENT ON CSSR OCCUPATION (RELEADS CN 44)

BONN, AUG. 22 (RFE SPECIAL/DEWITT) -- THE LEADER OF WEST GERMANY'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT HAS ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION OF BREAKING INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS BY ITS OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"IT IS NOT THE QUESTION OF EAST AND WEST NOR OF CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM BUT OF RIGHT OR WRONG WITH WHICH ALL PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES TODAY ARE BEING CONFRONTED" BRANDT SAID IN A STATEMENT ISSUED HERE TODAY AFTER A NIGHT SESSION OF THE SPD PRESIDUM.

BRANDT PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING AFTER CUTTING SHORT HIS VACATION TO RETURN TO BONN MONDAY AFTERNOON.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE EFFORTS OF MANY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS FOR AN EAST - WEST DETENTE HAS SUFFERED A GRAVE SETBACK. BUT HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "THE STRUGGLE FOR A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS MUST BE CONTINUED, PRESSURE AND THREAT, THE INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE INTO THE LIFE OF THE NATIONS MUST BE ELIMINATED. OUR OWN POLICY WILL HAVE TO BE AIMED AT STRENGTHENING THE ATLANTIC DEFENSE ALLIANCE AND AT MAKING PROGRESS IN WEST EUROPEAN UNIFICATION."

BRANDT TERMED COMMUNIST CLAIMS OF WEST GERMAN INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AN INSULT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND A LIE. "NOT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC BUT OTHERS HAVE INTERVENED", THE SPD LEADER DECLARED.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS WRONG TO EXPECT THE UNITED STATES TO COME TO THE AID OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. "THE GOVERNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS ASKED NOBODY FOR HELP AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE NOT OFFERED ITS ASSISTANCE. THIS WE MUST SAY TO THOSE WHO WANT TO QUESTION THE SECURITY GUARANTEES WITHIN NATO", BRANDT SAID.

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