

CN 163

X/13 CURT.-- 1ST ADD BRANDT STATEMENT' ... (CN 162) XXX SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT MOSCOW UNDOUBTEDLY REALIZED THAT ITS AGGRESSION WOULD GRAVELY IMPAIR EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND ALSO LEAD TO A NEW SPLIT WITHIN THE COMMUNIST CAMP. IF THE SOVIETS NEVERTHELESS HAVE RUN THESE RISKS IT WAS BECAUSE THEY AND THE REGIMES DEPENDENT ON THEM FEARED EVEN MORE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE REFORM MOVEMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"THE APPLICATION OF STALINIST METHODS WAS MADE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WANT TO PERMIT THAT EASTERN SOCIALISM ON THE SOIL OF THE CSSR WAS GOING TO BE DEMOCRATIZED AND NATIONAL INTERESTS BE INTERPRETED ON THE SPOT, IN AGREEMENT BETWEEN STATE LEADERSHIP AND PEOPLE AND ON THE BASIS OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION," BRANDT STATED.

HE CONCLUDED BY APOLOGISING TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF EAST GERMAN TROOPS IN THE OCCUPATION. HE ASKED THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE "NOT TO BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST THE GERMAN PEOPLE THAT A PART OF THEIR SONS ONCE AGAIN HAVE TO BE ON ALIEN TERRITORY AS OCCUPATION TROOPS, THUS MAKING FOR A NEW MUNICH."

IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW BROADCAST LAST NIGHT BRANDT ALSO SAID WHILE THE EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE HAD BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO A POLICY OF PEACE. A SIMILAR VIEW WAS EXPRESSED IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW BY CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER.

BMCG /H / 7105 1145/68 V/R