

CN 198

X/13 CS - FINNISH COMMUNIST DAILY ON INVASION

HELSINKI, AUG 22 (RFE SPECIAL) -- FINLANDS COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, KANSAN UUTiset, WROTE EDITORIALY TODAY:

"IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, PARTLY REGARDING THE QUESTION OF THE MANNER OF PROCEEDING, BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED THAN ONE THOUGHT AFTER BRATISLAVA.

"BUT IT IS VERY HARD, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THE SOVIETS TO MOTIVATE TO THE WESTERN BROTHER PARTIES THE NEED FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION, NOT TO MENTION THE JUSTIFICATION IN A SITUATION WHICH IS NOT COMPARABLE TO HUNGARY 1956, AS FAR AS ATTEMPTS OF INTERFERENCE BY WESTERN IMPERIALISTS ARE CONCERNED.

"ACCORDING TO SOVIET SOURCES, THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ASKED FOR MILITARY MESURES. IF A MINORITY WAS BEHIND THIS REQUEST, OPOSING THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND OPPOSING THE PARTY LEADERSHIP, THEN THE EVENTS OF TUESDAY OPEN UP GLOOMY PROSPECTS. IT IS NOT EVEN POSSIBLE TO FIND GROUNDS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR SUCH ACTIONS.

"THE WARSAW PACT MEASURES HAVE CREATED A MOST DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS SITUATION IN THE WHOLE WORLD. THERE IS THE GHREAT THAT IF THE SITUATION IS NOT QUICKLY CLEARED UP AND BETTERED, THE DIFFERENCES AND THE LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT WILL INCREASE."

"REGARDING THE OFFICIAL FINNISH STAND, WE MUST OBSERVE THE LINES OF OUR TRADITIONAL NEUTRALITY POLICY. BUT THIS DOES NOT PREVENT TAKING A STAND REGARDING ARMED MEASURES. YET, ONE MUST AVOID TOO HASTY AND SHARP CONCLUSIONS."

BG/E. 1405/68