

X/13/9 CS -- POLISH TV COMMENTATOR VIEWS EVENTS "WITH HEAVY HEART"
(W/CN - 210)

BERLIN, AUG 22 (RFE SPECIAL/WULFF) -- A POLISH TELEVISION COMMENTATOR LAST NIGHT TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT FORCES WAS A DEVELOPMENT ACCEPTED WITH "A HEAVY HEART" BUT EXPLAINED IT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF POLAND.

STAR COMMENTATOR EDMUND MECLEWSKI, PRESENTING THE DAILY COMMENTARY FOLLOWING THE EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST, SAID:

"WE ACCEPT THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH A HEAVY HEART.

"IN SAYING THIS, I AM FULLY AWARE THAT WHAT HAPPENED WAS INEVITABLE AND NECESSARY. THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS IN THE VITAL NATIONAL INTEREST OF POLAND."

THE DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE HEADING TOWARD A SEPARATION OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE SOCIALIST CAMP, MECLEWSKI SAID.

"ANY CHANGE IN THE BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE IN FAVOR OF IMPERIALISM MEANS OBJECTIVELY A STRENGTHENING OF THE WEST GERMAN MILITARISTS AND REVISIONISTS," THE COMMENTATOR SAID. "WHAT HAS STARTED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS FOR A LONG TIME BEEN FAR BEYOND WHAT ONE MIGHT CALL AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF A COUNTRY," MECLEWSKI SAID.

HE CRITICIZED THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY LEADERS HAD NOT EVEN ATTEMPTED TO BRING INTO EFFECT THE RESPONSIBILITIES AGREED UPON IN BRATISLAVA. THE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION HAD NEITHER CHANGED THEIR AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE NOR THE ANTI-SOCIALIST CONTENTS OF THEIR REPORTS.

IN ITS FIRST EVENING NEWSCAST, PRECEDING MECLEWSKI'S COMMENTARY AT 1930 MT, POLISH TELEVISION BROADCAST THE STATEMENT OF THE POLISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AFTER THE STATEMENT WAS READ, TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOVIET TANKS SURROUNDED BY CIVILIANS WERE SHOWN. THE COMMENTATOR SAID "HERE YOU SEE THE POPULATION OF PRAGUE SURROUNDING THE TANKS BELONGING TO THE TROOPS OF THE WARSAW PACT STATES WHICH HAVE ARRIVED IN PRAGUE TODAY."

THE COMMENTATOR THEN READ A SHORTENED VERSION OF THE APPEAL OF A "GROUP OF MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT" ASKING THE "FRATERNAL PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE HELP."

POLISH TELEVISION THEN REPORTED ABOUT THE MEETING OF GOMULKA WITH LEADING POLISH JOURNALISTS DURING WHICH HE SPOKE ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AFTER THE MECLEWSKI COMMENTARY, THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE PROGRAM "SWIATOWID," WHICH BEGAN AT 2025 MT, ALSO DEVOTED ITS AIR TIME TO THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE LONG-TIME POLISH RADIO AND TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT IN BONN, RYSZARD WOJNA, REPORTED ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS DURING A TRIP TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA A FEW WEEKS AGO.

WOJNA TALKED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE "WEST GERMAN INFILTRATION" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE DANGERS CONNECTED WITH IT FOR THE SOCIALIST CAMP. "WEST GERMAN REVISIONISTS COOPERATING WITH CZECHOSLOVAK REACTION ATTEMPTED TO UNDERMINE THE WARSAW PACT," HE SAID, ADDING THAT "ON OUR SOUTHERN FLANK DANGER WAS MOUNTING, ALSO FOR OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS."

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