

X/13 CURT -- 2ND ADD FINN CP... XXX SAID

"ACCORDING TO ESTIMATION OF THE FIVE SIGNING PARTIES OF THE WARSAW PACT, THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST SYSTEM HAS REALLY BEEN SERIOUSLY AND IMMEDIATELY ENDANGERED. OUR PARTY HAS NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO DRAW SUCH FAR-REACHING CONCLUSIONS ALTHOUGH EVEN WE HAVE HAD REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE APPEARANCE OF ANTI-SOCIALIST AND ANTI-SOVIET FORCES IN THE CSSR. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, TRUSTED THE WILL AND ABILITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CP AND ITS LEADERSHIP TO KEEP THESE FORCES IN CHECK.

"I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT IT WAS NOW NECESSARY TO TAKE SUCH FAR-REACHING STEPS EVEN IF THE DANGER AGAINST THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM WAS NOW A REAL ONE, THOSE MEASURES TO WHICH WERE RESORTED ALSO WEAKEN THE PROGRESS OF THE CAUSE OF THE SOCIALISM IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES."

DR. ELE ALENIUS, NON-COMMUNIST CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE, TOLD KANSAN UUTISET:

"I AM CONCERNED AND SHOCKED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CSSR. NATURALLY I DO NOT KNOW ALL THOSE FACTORS WHICH LED TO THIS SITUATION. ONE CAN HARDLY, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT WOULD HAVE RESORTED TO INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL MATTERS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY WITHOUT VERY SERIOUS REASONS.

"ANYWAY, IN PRINCIPLE THIS INTERVENTION SERIOUSLY SHAKES CONFIDENCE IN THE RIGHT OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO DECIDE THEIR OWN MATTERS THEMSELVES. AS A LEFTIST SOCIALIST AND AN ADVOCATE OF COOPERATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS, I CANNOT APPROVE OF THIS."

FOS/HI/70 1916/68

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