

PARIS AUG. 22 (RFE SPECIAL/OVADIA) --- A PRIVATE FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES OF YOUTH ANNOUNCED THURSDAY ITS DECISION TO SUSPEND ALL CONTACTS WITH THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

FOLLOWING A FLOOD OF PROTESTS, THE DECISION BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION LEO LAGRANGE WAS THE FIRST CONCRETE MOVE REPORTED IN FRANCE TO EXERCISE PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET UNION AND HER "ORTHODOX" ALLIES.

IN A COMMUNIQUE, THE FEDERATION SAID ITS DECISION HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY "INDIGNANT MEMBERS, CONDEMNING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE FEDERATION CALLED UPON ALL FRENCH YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS TO "DECIDE IN COMMON MEASURES AIMED AT DEMONSTRATING OUR SOLIDARITY WITH CZECHOSLOVAK YOUTH".

THE FEDERATION IS NAMED AFTER FRANCES FIRST YOUTH MINISTER, THE SOCIALIST LEO LAGRANGE, APPOINTED IN 1936 AND KILLED DURING THE HITLER INVASION OF IN 1940.

THE FEDERATION, A SPOKESMAN TOLD RFE THIS AFTERNOON, CONTINUED TO BE INSPIRED BY SOCIALIST IDEALS, BUT STOOD OUTSIDE ANY POLITICAL GROUPING. IT ORGANIZED EXCHANGES WITH ALL COUNTRIES "WHERE A MINIMUM OF FREEDOM EXISTS". AMONG THE COUNTRIES BARRED FROM COOPERATION ARE EAST GERMANY AND SPAIN, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE FEDERATION, WHICH GETS FRENCH GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, HAS ABOUT 50,000 ADHERENTS IN FRANCE.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMEN, EXCHANGES WERE PLANNED WITH POLAND AND BULGARIA. A GROUPS IS NOW IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND OTHER GROUPS ARE IN RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.

"WE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE A SIMPLE STATEMENT IN FAVOR OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA", THE SPOKESMAN SAID : "WE WANTED TO SHOW OTHER YOUTH FEDERATIONS AND TOURIST ORGANISATIONS THAT WE MIGHT HAVE MEANS OF EXERCISING PRESSURE ON THE SOVIET UNION TO ORDER THE EVACUATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

A BIG INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS IS TO BE ORGANIZED IN POLAND SHORTLY, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED. HE SAID THE NATIONAL FEDERATION LEO LAGRANGE WAS ATTEMPTING TO GET SIMILAR FRENCH YOUTH GROUPS TO BOYCOTT THE POLISH MEETING.

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