

X/13 EURO - LONGO RETURNS TO ROME

ROME, AUG 22 (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON) - LUIGI LONGO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, TOLD SOVIET LEADERS YESTERDAY, THAT HE DISAGREED WITH THEIR INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

LONGO TOLD REPORTERS WHO MET HIM AT ROME'S AIRPORT TONIGHT THAT HE HAD BROKEN OFF HIS VACATION IN THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

MAKING AN AIRPORT STATEMENT, LONGO SAID:

"THE POLITICAL OFFICE OF OUR PARTY, AS SOON AS IT KNEW OF THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EXPRESSED ITS OWN REJECTION OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE FIVE COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT, CONSIDERING IT UNJUSTIFIED AND CONSIDERING THAT IT WAS WITHIN THE COMPETENCY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS AND GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THE DEFENSE OF THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM AND THE DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL OF THEIR COUNTRY.

"FURTHERMORE, IT WAS THESE CONCEPTS THAT I EXPRESSED WITH GREAT FRANKNESS ALSO TO THE LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION WHOM I MET IN MOSCOW.

"PASSING THROUGH PARIS WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF HAVING A BRIEF EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS WITH COMRADE ROCHET AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY.

"WE ALSO WERE ABLE TO NOTE THAT THERE EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO PARTIES A SUBSTANTIAL CONVEGRGENCE OF VIEWS AND APPRECIATIONS ON THE EVENTS OF THESE DAYS.

"TOMORROW, THE DIRECTORATE OF OUR PARTY WILL MEET TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION AND THE NEED TO CONVENE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY."

LONGO WAS ACCOMPANIED FROM RUSSIA BY SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY WHO HAD ALSO BEEN VACATIONING IN THE SOVIET UNION.

JON/HE

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15