

CN 362

X/13 EURO -- SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FOLDS EARLY DUE TO CSSR

COPENHAGEN, AUG 22 -- (RFE SPECIAL/THOMSON) -- THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL WILL END TODAY INSTEAD OF SATURDAY, DUE TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION, THE BOARD SAID TODAY.

THE BOARD DECLARED THAT NUMEROUS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED TO RETURN TO THE SEATS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO FOLLOW EAST EUROPEAN EVENTS THERE. IN ADDITION, MANY DID NOT EVEN SHOW UP, BECAUSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK OCCUPATION.

WILLY BRANDT, WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER, WAS TO HAVE MADE A SPEECH ON DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIZATION IN EUROPE ON SATURDAY. THAT HAS BEEN CANCELLED, AND TOMORROWS DISCUSSIONS ON A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC APPROACH TO EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID ARE BEING HELD THIS AFTERNOON.

FORMER BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER GEORGE BROWN ISSUED A STATEMENT THIS AFTERNOON IN WHICH HE SAID THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL HAD AGREED DURING THIS MORNINGS SESSION THAT EUROPEAN COOPERATION, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY, MUST BE EXTENDED.

HE SAID, THAT "THE EVENTS OF THE PAST DAYS EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR MAKING NATO MORE VERSATILE AND A BETTER ORGANIZED FORCE. I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED IN THE NEED," BROWN SAID, "TO GIVE UP NATO."

BROWN BELIEVED THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD HAVE "EXTENSIVE CONSEQUENCES AROUND THE GLOBE." HE FELT THE PARIS VIETNAM PEACE PROBINGS WOULD BE MADE "MORE DIFFICULT".

BROWN SAID THE "AUTHORITY OF THE SOVIETS HAS BEEN WEAKENED, AND AS YET WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THE CHINESE WILL UTILIZE THE SITUATION. BUT THE LIBERAL MOVEMENT IN EASTERN EUROPE CANNOT BE STOPPED," BROWN DECLARED. "NOT EVEN BY THE SOVIET UNION."

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15