

P-14, NEW YORK, AUG. 22 (RFE SPECIAL/TRIMBLE)--A CZECHOSLOVAKIAN STUDENT LEADER -- IN THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND A CONFERENCE -- SAID WEDNESDAY THAT IF HIS COUNTRY HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN CREATING "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM," HE BELIEVES THAT ITS ATTEMPT "WILL ONLY BE POSTPONED."

JAN KAVAN, A MEMBER OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CHARLES UNIVERSITY COUNCIL IN PRAGUE, SAID THAT THE "CLAIM OF THE LEADERS OF FIVE INVADING COUNTRIES TO HAVE MORAL CREDIT FOR DETERMINING SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES NOW IS ENTIRELY DISCREDITED" AS A RESULT OF THE SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

KAVAN, WHO HAS BEEN ATTENDING THE 21ST NATIONAL STUDENT CONGRESS, SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION, AT MANHATTAN, KANSAS, SAID IN A PREPARED STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIET INVASION "CLEARLY VIOLATES THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY" OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"A HUMANISTIC IDEA OF SOCIALISM HAS BEEN HIT BELOW THE BELT," HE SAID. BUT HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THOSE WHO MAY TRY TO INTERPRET THE PERIOD BETWEEN JANUARY AND AUGUST OF THIS YEAR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA "AS A VICTORY FOR ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES."

"IF TODAY THE WESTERN JOURNALIST EXPRESSES HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SMALL STATE WHICH WAS PUNISHED FOR ITS ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE COMMUNIST SUPPRESSION," KAVAN SAID, "AND BY THIS MEANS GAIN ITS FREEDOMS -- (OR) IF JOURNALISTS FROM EASTERN EUROPE CLAIM THAT INTERVENTION SAVED SOCIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BOTH OF THEM WILL BE FAR FROM THE TRUTH."

AFTER SAYING THAT THE ATTEMPT TO CREATE A SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM "WILL ONLY BE POSTPONED," KAVAN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT "IN THIS ATTEMPT, WE SHALL BE SUPPORTED BY ALL GENUINE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS AND BY ALL HONEST AND SINCERE PEOPLE IN THIS DIVIDED WORLD."

TEXT OF STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

"MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN INVADED. THIS CLEARLY VIOLATES THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC. A HUMANISTIC IDEA OF SOCIALISM HAS BEEN HIT BELOW THE BELT. SINCE JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, WE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE TRIED TO CREATE A MODEL OF SOCIALISM ADEQUATE TO OUR CONDITIONS AND DEMOCRATIC TRADITION. TODAY, WE WERE SMOTHERED BY AN ACTION COMPARABLE ONLY WITH THE MILITARISTIC POLICY OF THE IMPERIALIST STATES. THE IDEA OF SOCIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT NO TIME SUFFERED, BUT THE CLAIM OF THE LEADERS OF THE FIVE INVADING COUNTRIES TO HAVE THE MORAL CREDIT FOR DETERMINING SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES IS NOW ENTIRELY DISCREDITED."

"THOSE JOURNALISTS WHO, EITHER IN LONDON OR IN KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY, MISINTERPRETED MY CRITIQUE OF THE NOVOTNY REGIME AND MY STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CHANGES OF THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS AND TRIED TO INTERPRET THEM DIFFERENTLY FROM THE ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO SOCIALISM ITS HUMANISTIC FACE AND RESTORE THE FREEDOMS WHICH THE REVOLUTION TEMPORARILY TOOK AWAY, AND WHICH PAST LEADERS LIKE MR. NOVOTNY FAILED SOMEHOW TO REMEMBER TO REINTRODUCE, CONSCIOUSLY LIED."

"IF IN THE FUTURE, ANYBODY TRIES TO EXPLAIN OR INTERPRET JANUARY TO AUGUST 1968 AS A VICTORY FOR ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES, HE WILL BE CONSCIOUSLY DECEIVING HIMSELF AND OTHERS. IF TODAY, THE WESTERN JOURNALIST EXPRESSES HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SMALL STATE WHICH WAS PUNISHED FOR ITS ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE COMMUNIST SUPPRESSION AND BY THIS MEANS GAIN ITS FREEDOMS, IF THE JOURNALIST FROM EASTERN EUROPE CLAIMS THAT INTERVENTION SAVED SOCIALISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BOTH OF THEM WILL BE FAR FROM THE TRUTH. I FIRMLY BELIEVE IN OUR PEOPLE, IN THEIR POLITICAL MATURITY, ESPECIALLY ACHIEVED BY THE LESSONS OF THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS. I BELIEVE THAT IF WE DON'T SUCCEED IN CREATING A SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM, THIS ATTEMPT WILL ONLY BE POSTPONED. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT IN THIS ATTEMPT, WE SHALL BE SUPPORTED BY ALL GENUINE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS, BY ALL HONEST AND SINCERE PEOPLE IN THIS DIVIDED WORLD."