

CN 381

X/13 CURT -- BELGIAN CP CALLS FOR QUICK TROOP WITHDRAWAL, EXPLANATION

BRUSSELS, AUG. 22 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- THE TRADITIONAL (PRO-MOSCOW) BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY TODAY, IN AN OPEN LETTER, CALLED FOR A PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF WARSAW PACT TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND A "CONVINCING EXPLANATION" FROM THE KREMLIN.

"WE CANNOT APPROVE THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA," THE LETTER SAID. IT WAS ADDRESSED TO THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY.

"WE WERE CONVINCED THAT AFTER THE MEETINGS OF CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD PROVED THEIR ABILITY TO SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ACCORDING TO NORMS OF NEGOTIATION OF A HIGHER TYPE.

"WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE NOW CHOSEN SUCH A CHANGE OF COURSE AND WE WISH THAT YOU WOULD GIVE THE LABOR MOVEMENT THE CONVINCING EXPLANATIONS TO WHICH IT HAS THE RIGHT," THE BELGIAN POLITBURO'S LETTER SAID.

"WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE SOONER YOU WITHDRAW YOUR TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY, THE BETTER IT WILL BE."

THE BELGIAN COMMUNISTS WARNED THAT THE ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD GIVE THE WEST A FRESH PROPAGANDA WEAPON AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.

"WE BEG YOU TO CONSIDER THAT THE CAUSE OF SOCIALISM AND PEACE WILL BE DEPRIVED OF IMPORTANT FORCES, IF THE LABOR CLASSES OF WESTERN EUROPE IN PARTICULAR, CANNOT FIND IN THE POLICY OF YOUR PARTY A CLEAR REASON TO SUPPORT YOU IN THE OTHERWISE VALUABLE INITIATIVES YOU ARE TAKING FOR PEACE."

THE BELGIAN PARTY POLITBURO'S OPEN LETTER, DATED YESTERDAY, WAS PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S ISSUE OF DE RODE VAAN, THE FLEMISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE PARTY.

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