

X/13 E/W AUSTRIAN STATEMENTS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA

VIENNA, AUG 23 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR JOSEF KLAUS SAID LAST NIGHT THAT AUSTRIA, AS A CLOSE NEIGHBOUR OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAD TO RE-INFORCE HER BORDER DEFENCES AFTER "THE TRAGIC MIDDLE EUROPEAN EVENT",

SPEAKING ON AUSTRIAN TELEVISION, KLAUS SAID:

"AUSTRIA IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW, RESPECT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

HE STRESSED THAT AUSTRIAN NEUTRAL POLICIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AIMED AT EASING OF TENSION, SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION.

"THEREFORE, AS A NEUTRAL STATE, AUSTRIA REGRETS THAT SUCH POLICIES HAD BECOME QUESTIONABLE DUE TO THE EVENTS OF THE PAST 48 HOURS WHICH REPRESENT A SERIOUS BLOW TO ALL AUSTRIAN EFFORTS AIMED AT EASING OF TENSION," KLAUS SAID.

THE AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR EXPRESSED HIS OWN AND THE AUSTRIAN POPULATIONS HOPE THAT "ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR A NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WILL BE USED AND A SOLUTION FOUND WHICH WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK POPULATIONS WISHES TO DECIDE ITS FATE FREE AND INDEPENDENTLY".

ON ANOTHER PROGRAM THURSDAY NIGHT, TELEVISION BRANCH DIRECTOR GENERAL HELMUTH ZILK ASKED CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES TO ENABLE AUSTRIAN TELEVISION TO CONTACT CZECHOSLOVAK

TELEVISION MANAGER-GENERAL JIRI PELIKAN AND CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO DIRECTOR ZDENEK HEJZLAR.

ZILK ASKED THAT "PELIKAN AND HEJZLAR SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LET KNOW THEIR FRIENDS IN AUSTRIAN TELEVISION ABOUT THEIR PRESENT WHEREABOUTS".

AFTER HAVING STRESSED "FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRIAN AND CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION AND RADIO REPRESENTATIVES IN THE PAST, ZILK SAID THAT "WE SHOULD BE TOLD MORE ABOUT THEIR PRESENT FATE".

ZILK SAID NO CONTACTS HAD BEEN POSSIBLE WITH THE TWO CZECHOSLOVAK REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE PAST 24 HOURS.

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