

CN 34

X/4 C/S -- NEW CS CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

MUNICH, AUG 23 (CMD)-- THE NEWLY ELECTED CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS ELECTED A NEW PRESIDUM AND ENTRUSTED CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY VJENEK SILHAN WITH DISCHARGING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PARTY LEADER IN THE ABSENCE OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

AMONG THOSE ELECTED TO THE NEW PRESIDUM WERE DUBCEK HIMSELF, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN JOSEF SMRKOVSKY, PREMIER OLDRICH CERNIK, CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AND CZECH NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN CESTMIR CISAR, AS WELL AS JOSEF SPACEK, ZDENEK HEJZLAR, OTA SIK, FRANTISEK KRIEGL AND GUSTAV HUSAK, AMONG OTHERS.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM SAID IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST EARLY TODAY BY RADIO FREE CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAT IT UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THIS WAS THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NEWLY COMPOSED CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

IT ALSO SAID THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDUM, AS NOW COMPOSED, WAS THE ONLY LEGAL POWER WITHIN THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY.

IT DEMANDED FULL ALLEGIANCE OF ALL LOWER PARTY BODIES.

(RADIO FREE CZECHOSLOVAKIA ONE, AUG 23, 0325)

JH/JM/U

0348/68

1/21/15