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X/4 C/S - CAPSULE PORTRAIT OF ACTING PARTY LEADER (W/CN 50)

MUNICH, AUG 23 (CMD/EERA) -- PROFESSOR VJENKA SILHAN WHO WAS CHOSEN EARLY TODAY AS ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDUM IN THE ABSENCE OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK, IS A PROFESSOR AT THE PRAGUE ECONOMIC COLLEGE. HE IS IN HIS LATE 40'S.

SOLHAN IS GENERALLY CREDITED AS BEING CO-AUTHOR WITH PROFESSOR OTA SIK OF THE NEW ECONOMIC MODEL FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

UNTIL TODAY, SILHAN WAS LARGELY UNKNOWN AS A POLITICAL FIGURE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE PRE-INVASION CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS ELECTED A SECRETARY OF THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE CHOSEN AT YESTERDAY'S PARTY CONGRESS.

SILHAN HAS SAID IN SPEECHES AND WRITINGS THAT HE BELIEVES IN THE ESTABLISH OF DIFFERENT INTEREST-GROUPS, WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY REMAINING THE LEADING FORCE IN THE NATION.

HE SUPPORTS THOSE WHO DECLARE THAT THE PARTY CANNOT ASSUME THIS ROLE BY RIGHT, BUT MUST STRUGGLE TO WIN AND HOLD KIT ON MERIT.

RE/DJG/AFR 1023/68

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