

CN 161

X/13 C/S -- FINN CP CELEBRATIONS CANCELLED

HELSINKI, AUG 23 -- (RFE SPECIAL/RIDALA) -- THE POLITBUREAU OF THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY HAS DECIDED TO CALL OFF THE MAJOR CELEBRATIONS OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AND SUMMONED ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO MEET ON SUNDAY TO DISCUSS THE CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

A PROGRAM OF MINOR FESTIVITIES ON FRIDAY WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS, HOWEVER, AS THE PARTY RECEIVES CABLES OF CONGRATULATIONS AND THE EXHIBITION OF THE CP HISTORY AND AN ART EXHIBITION WILL BE OPENED AT THE CULTURAL HOUSE OF HELSINKI.

THE RUMANIAN, FRENCH AND SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE CANCELLED THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVITIES. SEVERAL GROUPS OF FOREIGN GUESTS ARRIVED ON FRIDAY, AMONG THEM THE SOVIET THREE-MEMBER DELEGATION HEADED BY A.J. BELSHE, MEMBER OF THE POLITBUREAU OF THE SOVIET PARTY.

AMONG OTHER GUESTS WHO ARRIVED ON FRIDAY WERE IVAN MIKHAILOV, LEADER OF THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION AND A MEMBER OF THE POLITBUREAU, VILLY FUSSLANG, A MEMBER OF THE POLITBUREAU OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY, AS WELL AS TWO POLISH DELEGATES. THEY WERE JOZEF TEJCHMA, SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE POLISH UNITED LABOR PARTY, AND JANUSZ TURKO, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF PARTY HISTORY.

IN ALL, SIX OF 14 INVIED PARTIES HAVE SENT DELEGATES -- RUSSIA, POLAND, BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, NORWAY AND DENMARK- THREE HAVE CANCELLED -- FRANCE, SWEDEN AND RUMANIA.

THE OTHER FIVE ARE BOTH GERMANIES, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY AND ITALY, AND THE FINN CP SAID IT HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHETHER THEY WOULD SHOW UP.

DJG/A *hlc* 1400/68 *19*