

CN 174

C/S -- KANSAN UUTISET ON CSSR: FAIT ACCOMPLI

HELSINKI, AUG 23 -- (RFE SPECIAL) - THE COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER KANSAN UUTISET COMMENTED EDITORIALY TODAY ON THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND JUDGED IT A FAIT ACCOMPLI.

"WHEN ESTIMATING THE REASONS WHICH LED TO THE DECISION BY THE SOVIET UNION TO OCCUPY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IN GENERAL THE CONCLUSION HAS BEEN WRONG THAT RUSSIA WAS AFRAID THAT THE DEVELOPMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD IN THE LONG RUN LEAD TO THE WEAKENING OF THE WARSAW PACT AT A STRATEGICALLY VERY IMPORTANT POINT.

"IF THE STANDS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND, FOR INSTANCE, WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DIFFER WITH EACH OTHER, THE REASON IS THAT THE LATTER ONES COULD NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER THE SITUATION SO CRITICAL. IT IS, OF COURSE, ALLOWED TO HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW AND CONDEMN THE MEASURES AS BEING HASTY AND EXAGGERATED, BUT IT IS HARDLY VERY FRUITFUL. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS A FACT, SOMETHING A SOCIALIST GREAT POWER HAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS DELIBERATIONS CARRIED OUT, AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK WHAT TO DO FROM NOW ON.

"A PERIOD OF A NEW COLD WAR IS PERHAPS AFTER ALL NOT RPT NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE - UNLIKE THE HUNGARIAN SITUATION IN 1956 - SINCE IT SEEMS THAT EVEN THE WEST UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PRESERVATION OF THE PRESENT STRATEGIC SITUATION, ABOVE ALL IN EUROPE, IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS INTERESTS BECAUSE ITS SHAKING WOULD BE DANGEROUS EVEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE WEST."

DJG /A *lee* 1429/68

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