

CN 190

X/4 C/S - NEW PARTY PRESIDUM BEGINS WORK

MUNICH, AUG 23 (CMD)- RADIO FREE PRAGUE SAID TODAY THAT THE NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDUM AND SECRETARIAT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE BEGUN THEIR WORK.

THE RADIO DID NOT RPT NOT SAY WHAT KIND OF WORK THESE TWO BODIES WERE DOING.

IT ALSO SAID THE SESSION OF THE NEW CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENDED TO 0400 HOURS MUNICH TIME TODAY.

THE LENGTHY SESSION ENTRUSTED CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY VENEK SILHAN TO STAND IN FOR PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK WHO IS HELD BY THE SOVIETS. DUBCEK'S WHEREABOUTS ARE NOT RPT NOT KNOWN.

SILHAN WAS ASKED BY THE RADIO TO SAY WHAT TASKS ARE NOW FACING THE PARTY AND WHAT IS NECESSARY TO DO TO ENSURE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATE "SO THAT WE GET OUT OF THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION."

SILHAN SAID "WELL, THE PROCEEDINGS ARE VERY TIRING.

"OUR WHOLE PERIOD IS TIRING. NOT RPT NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT FOR ALL OF YOU. YOUR SITUATION TOO, IS NOT RPT NOT AN EASY ONE.

"OF COURSE, SUCH A BODY LIKE THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE POLITICAL SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY. IT MUST FIND WAYS BY WHICH TO SOLVE THIS POLITICAL SITUATION.

(MORE) LD/DJG/HKW 1515/68 KR