

WEST GERMAN UNION WITHDRAWS INVITATIONS TO EAST EUROPEANS

FRANKFURT, AUG. 23 (DPA/GND) -- THE WEST GERMAN METAL WORKERS UNION ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT HAD WITHDRAWN INVITATIONS TO SOVIET, POLISH, HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN UNIONS TO ITS NINTH CONGRESS.

THE EXECUTIVE OF THE WEST GERMAN UNION DECIDED UNANIMOUSLY TODAY AT AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO WITHDRAW THE INVITATION TO THE METAL WORKERS UNIONS OF THOSE COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE EXECUTIVE SAID THAT A RESUMPTION OF CONTACTS TO THESE EAST EUROPEAN UNIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER THE RESTORATION OF NORMAL CONDITIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

FOUR CZECH SAILORS ASK ASYLUM IN ITALY

ROME, AUG. 23--(RFE SPECIAL TEMPEST)---FOUR SAILORS FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK SHIP, BRNO, HAVE ASKED POLITICAL ASYLUM OF AUTHORITIES IN BARI WHERE THE SHIP HAS BEEN DOCKED FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS.

POLICE AUTHORITIES IN THE SMALL ADRIATIC CITY SAID TODAY THAT WAITER SOUKUP JIRI, 29, HAD ASKED FOR ASYLUM LAST WEDNESDAY, WHILE SECOND MATE EDUARD POVAZAN, 32, ASKED ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE MARIA, 31, AND THEIR DAUGHTER MARIJA, 7, YESTERDAY.

ANOTHER TWO SEAMEN ASKED ASYLUM TODAY BUT POLICE COULD GIVE NO PARTICULARS.

CZECHOSLOVAK GROUPS IN ITALY SUPPORTED

ROME, AUG. 23.- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON).- ANXIOUS CZECHOSLOVAK GROUPS OF ACTORS, MUSICIANS AND SPORTS TEAMS ARE RECEIVING EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT AND PROMISES OF AID WHEREVER THEY HAPPEN TO BE IN ITALY.

AT TAORMINA LAST NIGHT, CZSLOVENSKA FILHARMONICA ORCHESTRA OF BRATISLAVA PLAYED ITS LAST PERFORMANCE IN THE COUNTRY, PROLONGED APPLAUSE, AND SOME EMOTIONAL WEEPING, GREETED THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE THEATER MANAGEMENT HAD TURNED OVER THE NIGHTS PROFITS TO THE ORCHESTRA.

THIS 150-STRONG ORCHESTRA IS SCHEDULED TO GO TO VIENNA TOMORROW, WHERE THEY HOPE TO FIND MEANS OF TRANSPORT BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY. ALL MEMBERS SIGNED A PROTEST TO THE UNITED NATIONS OVER THE VIOLENCE OF THEIR COUNTRYS INDEPENDENCE.

AT MESSINA, IN SICILY, THE PRAGUE SPARTAK VOLLEYBALL TEAM REFUSED ALL COMMENT "UNTIL THERE WAS FURTHER NEWS." BUT CAPTAIN KOLIANDR SAID: "WE ARE REALLY STUNNED AND SURPRISED AT THIS TERRIBLE NEWS."

HE ADDED THAT THE TEAM WOULD REMAIN IN MESSINA FOR A FEW MORE DAYS UNTIL THE SITUATION HAD CLARIFIED.

ATHLETES OF THE PRAGUE SLAVOJ WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM ALSO IN SICILY, SAID THEY, TOO, WOULD REMAIN IN SICILY A WHILE LONGER. THE PRAGUE OPERA TROUPE, WHICH HAD BEEN PERFORMING IN VENICE, LEFT LAST NIGHT.

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