

X/4 C/S - FOUR C/S MINISTERS ISSUE APPEAL TO THE WORLD (W/CN 123)

MUNICH, AUG.23 (CMD)- THE FOUR CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTERS WHO WERE IN YUGOSLAVIA WHEN THEIR COUNTRY WAS INVADED EARLIER THIS WEEK, TODAY ISSUED AN APPEAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE WORLD, TANJUG REPORTS.

THE APPEAL DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TOP CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP.

TANJUG SAID THE APPEAL DESCRIBED THE ARREST OF THE TOP CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP AS AN "UNHEARD-OF ACT OF ARBITRARINESS AND BRUTAL VIOLENCE, WHICH IS COMPLETELY AT ODDS WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS CHARTER, AND HAD NO RPT NO PRECEDENT IN HISTORY."

ACCORDING TO TANJUG, THE APPEAL ASKED ALL GOVERNMENTS TO USE "ALL MEANS AT YOUR DISPOSAL SO THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL LEADERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MAY BE FREED AND SO THAT THEY MAY EXERCISE THEIR DUTIES."

THE APPEAL ADDED: "WE REQUEST YOU NOT RPT NOT TO RECOGNIZE ANY GOVERNMENT, OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL BODIES WHICH MIGHT BE FORMED THROUGH THE OCCUPATION FORCES OR UNDER THEIR PRESSURE.

"ANY SUCH UNLAWFUL ATTEMPT, WHICH WOULD BE IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC. MUST NEEDS BE REJECTED BECAUSE IT WOULD BE AT ODDS WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATE."

(MORE) REN/DJG/H HA 1539/68 4 B