

X/13 - E/W - AUSTRIAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS

VIENNA, AUG 23 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM VOICED ITS OPPOSITION TO THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN A MEETING LASTING FROM THURSDAY AFTERNOON UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING, PARTY LEADER FRANZ MUHRI SAID IN VIENNA TODAY.

INTERVIEWED BY AUSTRIAN RADIO, MUHRI STRESSED THAT THE WHOLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF WORLD COMMUNISM DEPENDS ON A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROBLEM.

SUCH A SOLUTION MUST BE BASED ON CZECHOSLOVAK SOVEREIGNTY AND ON PRESERVATION OF THE SOCIALIST PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION, MUHRI SAID.

ACCORDING TO MUHRI, NEW INITIATIVES, TO BE TAKEN BY THE AUSTRIAN AS WELL AS BY OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, ARE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CONFLICT.

MUHRI SAID, THAT IN HIS OPINION, NO NEW FACTS HAVE COME UP IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHICH JUSTIFY THE WARSAW PACT INVASION.

"THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PEOPLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A POSITION TO DEAL THEMSELVES WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS, INCLUDING ANTI-SOCIALIST TENDENCIES."

ACCORDING TO MUHRI, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ANTI-SOCIALIST TENDENCIES EXISTED.

"BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS REALLY AN ACUTE DANGER OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION JUSTIFYING THIS STEP (THE WARSAW PACT INVASION)", MUHRI SAID.

BMCG/H hr 1555/68 4 B