

X/13 CS -- SVOBODA'S MOSCOW TALKS SEEK POLITICAL SOLUTION

(RELEADS CN 206)

BRUSSELS, AUG 23 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK SAID TODAY CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT LUDVIG SVOBODA HAS FLOWN TO MOSCOW IN AN EFFORT TO "CLARIFY THE TRAGIC SITUATION" IN HIS COUNTRY AND TO SEEK A "POLITICAL SOLUTION," HAJEK STOPPED BRIEFLY IN BRUSSELS THIS AFTERNOON WHILE ENROUTE FROM VIENNA TO NEW YORK WHERE HE WILL ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

WHILE HERE, HAJEK MET BRIEFLY WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE HARMEL AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK CHARGE D'AFFAIRES MIROSLAV JANDIK, AT THE BRUSSELS AIRPORT. FLYING TO NEW YORK ABOARD PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT 91, HAJEK CAUSED A 25 MINUTE DELAY IN DEPARTURE HERE WHILE HIS DISCUSSIONS WERE CONCLUDED.

ASKED BY REPORTERS ABOUT THE NATURE OF SVOBODA'S TRIP TO MOSCOW, HAJEK SAID:

"I BELIEVE THAT THIS MISSION COULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF CLARIFYING THE TRAGIC SITUATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN OUR COUNTRY AND FIND A SOLUTION BECAUSE A POLITICAL SOLUTION IS NECESSARY."

HE TERMED SVOBODA A "VERY COURAGEOUS AND A VERY HONEST MAN" AND SAID HE BELIEVED THE PRESIDENT HAD "ESTABLISHED THE NECESSITY FOR MEETING (SOVIET) POLITICAL AUTHORITIES AFTER HE MET THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF THE FIVE POWERS" IN PRAGUE.

"THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS WHEN HE MET THOSE PEOPLE THAT THE IDEA CAME TO HIM TO HAVE SUMMIT TALKS," HAJEK SAID.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EARLY END TO THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAJEK SAID: "WE WILL HAVE TO SEE AFTER THESE TALKS (OF SVOBODA IN MOSCOW).

(MORE)

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