

CN 255

X 13/ CS -- SOVIET, C/S AMBASSADORS MEET AT RUMANIAN PARTY

PARIS AUG. 23 (RFE SPECIAL/AFP-OVADIA) --- THE SOVIET AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADORS TO FRANCE WERE AMONG THE GUESTS AT A RUMANIAN EMBASSY RECEPTION IN PARIS AT NOON FRIDAY.

THE POLISH AND THE BULGARIAN AMBASSADORS DID NOT ATTEND THE PARTY HELD ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF RUMANIAS LIBERATION.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALERIAN ZORIN DECLARED BEFORE FRENCH JOURNALISTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION "HAD NO OTHER CHOICE" THAN TO INTERVENE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DUBCEK, ZORIN SAID, "OPENED THE ROAD FOR A COUNTER-REVOLUTION, MAYBE EVEN FOR A LEGAL COUNTER-REVOLUTION OR COUP DETAT. THE SOVIET UNION HAD TO INTERVENE IN ORDER TO DEFEND THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP"

AMBASSADOR ZORIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD APPROVED DUBCEKS REFORM OF PAST ERROR, BUT NOT HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION. THE SOVIET UNION HAD ALSO APPROVED THE REFORMS DECIDED LAST JANUARY, BUT NOT THEIR APPLICATION, THE AMBASSADOR SAID. HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS STILL MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT OF HUNGARY IN 1956, CONSIDERING THE GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ABUTTING "IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES".

CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR DR VILHELM PITHART, 2, DENOUNCED THE VIOLATION OF HIS COUNTRY.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR IS SEEING FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL DEBRE LATE THIS AFTERNOON AND HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT DE GAULLE TOMORROW AT NOON.

AMONG OTHER GUESTS PRESENT AT THE GARDEN PARTY HOSTED BY THE RUMANIAN AMBASSADOR AND MRS. CONSTANTIN FLITAN, WERE THE AMERICAN AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADORS. SEVERAL CHINESE DIPLOMATS STATIONED IN PARIS TURNED UP, AMONG THEM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AND THE MILITARY ATTACHE.

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH HAS PUBLISHED "REPROBATION" AND "DISAPPROVAL" OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WAS ALSO REPRESENTED WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDECK ROCHET AND MEMBERS OF THE POLITBURO.

BG/ O/RT

1853/68