

CN 260

X/13 E-W -- KIESINGER VOWS CONTINUATION OF OSTPOLITIK

(EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 2000 M.T.)

BONN, AUG. 23 (RFE SPECIAL/DEWITT)-- WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER TONIGHT VOWED THAT BONN WOULD CONTINUE A CONCILIATORY POLICY TOWARD THE EAST.

IN AN INTERVIEW ON THE PROGRAM "REPORT" BROADCAST BY THE FIRST WEST GERMAN TELEVISION CHANNEL, KIESINGER SAID WHILE THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE A CAUSE FOR REFLECTION HE FELT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

"WE HAVE SAID THAT WE WILL IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS TO ALL STATES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE WHICH SO DESIRE, NATURALLY ALSO WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIET UNION THUS FAR HAS ONLY POSED CONDITIONS THAT WE SIMPLY HAD TO ACCEPT. OTHER COUNTRIES WERE READY TO ESTABLISH BETTER RELATIONS WITH US, RUMANIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA, FOR EXAMPLE. OTHERS WERE SIMPLY HINDERED TO DO SO." KIESINGER DECLARED.

HE ADDED THAT BONN HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED VIOLATING SOVIET INTERESTS. "THAT IS TO SAY WE HAVE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO MAKE A POLITICAL-IDEOLOGICAL EXPORT TO THE EAST. WE WERE CONCERNED WITH BETTER TRADE RELATIONS, BETTER CULTURAL RELATIONS, OF COURSE ALSO MORE FRIENDLY POLITICAL RELATIONS. THIS WE WILL CONTINUE OF COURSE," THE CHANCELLOR TOLD HIS INTERVIEWER.

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