

CN 57

X/4 C/S --JUSTICE OFFICIALS SAY 1950 TRIALS MUST NOT BE REPEATED

MUNICH, AUG 23 (CMD)-- OFFICIALS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND THE SUPREME COURT HAVE DECLARED THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS "THERE MUST BE NO REPTITION OF THE TRIALS OF THE 1950S", ACCORDING TO A BROADCAST BY RADIO FREE PRAGUE.

THE COMMENT WAS CONTAINED IN A STATEMENT BY THE OFFICIALS THAT THE DETENETION OF (PARTY LEADER ) ALEXANDER DUBCEK, (PREMIER) OLDRICH CERNIK AND (NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN) JOSEF SMRKOVSKY VIOLATED THE CZECHOSLOVAK CONSTITUTION.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE SAID THAT THE WORKERS OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY AND OF THE SUPREME COURT DEMANDED THAT ALL THOSE INTERNED "SHOULD BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY, SO THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS."

THE STATEMENT SAID "IN ANY CASE, THERE MUST BE NO REPETITION OF THE PERIOD OF THE TRIALS IN THE FIFTIES WHEN THERE WAS GROSS VIOLATION OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF JUDGES' INDEPENDENCE.

THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY SAYING "THE CZECHOSLOVAK JUSTICE MUST PROVE THAT IT IS WORTHY OF THIS TIME, AND THAT IT IS WORTHY OF ITS MISSION TO BE THE PROTECTOR OF THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF CITIZENS."  
(RADIO FREE PRAGUE DOMESTIC/M, AUG 23, 2130)

RE/JH/RF/U TB/ 0308/68  
15