

CN 95

X/4 C/S - PRAVDA SAYS CONGRESS WAS ILLEGAL

MOSCOW, AUG 24 (CMD) -- THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA TODAY DESCRIBED THURSDAY'S CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS AS "ILLEGAL", SAID TASS.

ECHOING A SIMILAR ATTACK IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA LAST NIGHT, PRAVDA SAID: "ITS ILLEGAL NATURE IS PROVED BY THE FACTS. IT WAS CALLED IN CIRCUMVENTION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. NOBODY CHECKED THE MANDATES OF THE PARTICIPANTS, AND THERE WERE NO DELEGATES FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SLOVAKIA."

PRAVDA SAID THE "CONVOCATION OF A CLANDESTINE GATHERING WHICH ILLEGALLY ASSUMED THE NAME OF A CONGRESS IS A DIRECT ATTEMPT ON THE PARTY.

"BUT THE PARTY WILL NOT RPT NOT PERISH. THE SOUND FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO REVIVE IT. IT WILL REGAIN THE LAWFUL FAME OF ONE OF THE MILITANT MARXIST-LENINIST DETACHMENTS OF THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT."

(TASS, AUG 24; 68)

RE/MD/A 0809/68/NIAW