

CN 204

X/13 C/S - VIENNA SPACE DELEGATES ASK FOR SOVIET WITHDRAWAL

VIENNA, AUG. 24 (RFE SPECIAL/KOCH) - AN OPEN LETTER URGING THE WITHDRAWAL OF OCCUPYING TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS

RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM NETURAL AND WESTERN DELEGATES AT THE VIENNA SPACE CONGRESS.

THE LETTER WAS SENT BY CZECHOSLOVAK CONGRESS DELEGATES TO DELEGATES FROM THE COUNTRIES THAT INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

A PETITION SUPPORTING THE LETTER WAS THEN CIRCULATED FOR SIGNATURE AMONG DELEGATES AT THE CONGRESS NOW RPT NOW IN SESSION BY HONORARY HONDURAN CONSUL ALOIS ENGLAENDER, A CONGRESS DELEGATE.

THUS FAR AT LEAST 20 DELEGATES, INCLUDING ONES FROM ISRAEL AND THE VATICAN, HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION.

INCLUDED AMONG THE SIGNATORIES OF THE PETITION ARE DELEGATES OR REPRESENTATIVES FROM ITALY, GREAT BRITAIN, CANADA, AUSTRIA, AND WEST GERMANY.

ALMOST 70 COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH COMES TO AN END TUESDAY.

THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CZECHOSLOVAK LETTER, WHICH WAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS, READS:-

"WE, THE SCIENTISTS AND/OR PARTICIPANTS AS FREE INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, ASSEMBLED AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE EXPLORATION AND P E A C E F U L USES OF OUTER SPACE.

EXERCISING OUR RIGHTS AS CITIZENS OF SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS OUR OPINIONS FREELY.--

COMPELLED BY OUR CONSCIENCE, ARE FULFILLING OUR MORAL DUTY BY ADDING OUR NAMES TO THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE LETTER OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION TO THE FIVE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DATED AUGUST 21, 1968.--

"IN THE INTEREST OF FURTHER CO-OPERATION AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE PROGRESSIVE WORLD WE CALL UPON YOU TO MAKE ADEQUATE EFFORTS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY THEIR FORCES WHICH GROSSLY VIOLATED THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR STATE AND THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCERNING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE".

CR/MA/HI/CR.

1755/68 478