

CN 168

X/4 C/S - 4TH ADD - PRAVDA ARTICLE (CN - 123) X X X ON

(CMD) RADIO FREE PRAGUE REPLIED THIS MORNING TO PRAVDA'S ACCUSATION'S THAT THE CONGRESS WAS ILLEGAL.

"PRAVDA," REPLIED THE RADIO, "SAYS THE FOURTEENTH CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS IS INVALID BECAUSE THE MANDATES OF THE DELEGATES HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN PROPERLY CONTROLLED AND BECAUSE DELEGATES FROM SLOVAKIA WERE NOT RPT NOT PRESENT.

"BUT THE MANDATES OF THE DELEGATES WERE MOST CAREFULLY CHECKED ACCORDING TO THE LISTS AUTHORIZED BY THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE PARTY. THEY WERE SIGNED BY THE SECRETARIES OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

"IF HERE OR THERE A RUBBER STAMP WAS MISSING, THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT PARTY SECRETARIATS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE INVASION TROOPS WHO CONFISCATED EVERYTHING THEY FOUND, INCLUDING RUBBER STAMPS AND OFFICIAL NOTE PAPER.

"BESIDES, THERE IS NOTHING TO STOP BREZHNEV FROM CONVINCING HIMSELF OF THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DELEGATES MANDATES. THE CONGRESS IS MERELY SUSPENDED AND IS READY TO RESUME ITS DISCUSSIONS AT ANY MOMENT...

"AS FOR THE ARGUMENT OF PRAVDA THAT SLOVAK DELEGATES WERE NOT RPT NOT PRESENT, IT MUST KNOW THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM WERE FORCIBLY HELD UP BY SOVIET TROOPS. WHY DOESN'T PRAVDA CARRY THIS NEWS, WHICH IS KNOWN TO ALL THE OCCUPATION FORCES?" (RADIO FREE PRAGUE/F, AUG 24, 1118)

REN/MBW/HE /fr

1513/68 4B