

CS - ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER URGES NATO BUILD-UP

(RELEADS CN-185)

ROME, AUG 24, REUTER - ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GIUSEPPE MEDICI TODAY CALLED FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NATO ALLIANCE AFTER THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN THE MOST DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS ATTITUDE ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS TO DATE HE SAID WESTERN NATIONS WOULD HAVE TO CONDUCT A DEEP REAPPRAISAL OF THEIR POLICIES TOWARDS EASTERN EUROPE.

ADDRESSING AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE SENATE (UPPER HOUSE) COMMISSION ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION HAD BROKEN TREATIES AND PROMISES TOO LENGTHY TO LIST.

"ONE SHOULD RECORD, HOWEVER, THAT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS IN OPEN CONTRAST WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY," HE SAID.

" IT IS OBVIOUSLY TOO EARLY TO REACH CONCLUSIONS....BUT THE SOVIET UNION HAS OPENED A NEW PHASE IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS...."

REFERRING TO THE HUNGARIAN INVASION 12 YEARS AGO, SIGNOR MEDICI SAID: "IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT THIS TIME, AS IN 1956, THE USSR HAS COUNTED ON THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN A PRE-ELECTORAL PHASE AND IS ALSO HEAVILY ENGAGED IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA."

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT RECENT EVENTS LEAD ONE TO APPRECIATE THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY GUARANTEED IN THESE TIMES BY THE ATLANTIC PACT AND ITS MEMBERS," HE SAID.

PIETRO NENNI, LEADER OF ITALYS SOCIALIST PARTY, EXPRESSED HIS PARTYS SOLIDARITY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF INVADING FORCES.

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