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X/4 C/S -- INVASION WON'T CURB INDEPENDENCE NIKEZIC SAYS (W/CN 217)

MUNICH, AUG. 24 (CMD) -- YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MARKO NIKEXIC SAID YESTERDAY THAT -- DESPITE THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA , RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA WOULD NEVER MAKE "CONCESSIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

THE YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY TANJUG REPORTED TODAY THAT NIKEZIC MADE THE STATEMENT DURING A MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE YUGOSLAV PARTY, WHICH VOTED UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION OF THE INVASION.

TANJUG SAID NIKEZIC EMPASIZED THAT THOSE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES THAT "HAVE DECIDED TO PURSUE AN INDEPENDENT POLICY" WILL NOT RPT NOT CHANGE THEIR COURSE.

"IT WOULD REALLY BE A TRAGIC MISTAKE IF SOMEBODY THOUGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA OR THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF RUMANIA WOULD MAKE CONCESSIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE."

NIKEZIC SAID HE BELIEVED THAT "FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS IN ALL LIKELIHOOD NOT RPT NOT THE END OF A STRUGGLE, BUT ONLY THE BEGINNING."

TANJUG ALSO QUOTED HIM AS SAYING THAT ATTEMPTS IN THE PAST 20 YEARS TO "IMPOSE ON THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES RELATIONS OF SUBORDINATION" HAVE COMPLETELY FAILED.

(TANJUG/F AUG. 24)

EH/JON/HI/CR

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