

/-13 /CS --- FRENCH GOVERNMENT "ARDENTLY WISHES" TROOP WITHDRAWAL

PARISAAGG. 24 (RFE SPECIAL/ OVAIA) --- THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TODAY EXPRESSED "THE ARDENT DESIRE THAT THE SOVIET UNION, BY WITHDRAWING ITS OWN TROOPS AND ALL FOREIGN TROOPS, REVERTS TO THE ONLY WORTH WHILE ROAD", FRENCH INFORMATION MINISTER JEOL LE THEULE DECLARED THIS EVENING AT THE END OF A TWO-AND-A HALF HOUR SPECIAL FRENCH CABINET MEETING AT THE ELYSEE PALACE.

THE MEETING DEALT MAINLY WITH THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE SOVIET UNION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"FRANCE WILL NOT MODIFY HER POLICY", LE THEULE SAID.

"WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE JUSTIFICATION USED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE ARMED INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA", LE THEULE SAID.

FRANCE INTENDS TO AVOID, AS FAR IT IS CONCERNED, THE SERVITUDES AND THE RISKS ENSUING FROM THE CREATION OF ANTAGONISTIC BLOCS, LE THEULE SAID.

"FRANCE IS READY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF TO ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND TO THE SOVIET UNION IN PARTICULAR, WHICH ARE RESOLVED TO PRACTICE AMONG EACH OTHER THE MOST HUMAN POLICY, THAT IS THE POLICY OF PEACE", THE INFORMATION MINISTER SAID AT THE END OF THE CABINET MEETING.

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