

CN 255

C/S -- 5TH ADD HAJEK (CN 254) XXX COUNTRIES

THE INVASION HAS STRUCK A SERIOUS BLOW TO THIS. EVEN MORE SO SINCE IT HAD COME FROM QUARTERS FROM WHERE THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED IT. "WE SAY THIS WITH SADNESS," HE SAID.

HAJEK REPEATEDLY STRESSED CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S TIES WITH THE SOVIET COUNTRIES "EVEN THOUGH THESE TIES HAVE BEEN GRAVELY HAMPERED."

HE SAID "WE HOPE OUR PARTNERS WILL BECOME AWARE HOW ADVANTEAGEOUS IT IS TO THEM TO HAVE THESE BONDS ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND THE RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE."

HE SAID CZECHOSLOVAKIA HIGHLY APPRECIATED "THE PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING GIVEN TO OUR RENAISSANCE PROCESS BY YUGOSLAVIA AND RUMANIA. WE CONSIDER THIS TO BE THE REAL MANIFESTATION FOR GENUINE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM."

HE SAID HE HOPED THE OTHER FIVE COUNTRIES "SEEING THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE OCCUPATION" MAY GRASP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE MISTAKE THEY HAVE MADE," AND CORRECT IT.

"WE HOPE THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS OF PRESIDENT SVOBODA MAY CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THIS END. EVEN IN THIS SITUATION WHEN THE FIVE COUNTRIES DO NOT FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS WE CONSIDER THE AIMS AND OBJECTIONS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY AS BINDING. WE CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR COOPERATION OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND STRENGTHENING OF OUR SOCIALIST BONDS."

BG/U/CR AUG 24

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