

CN 265.

C/S - CHURCH LEADERS APPEALS

GENEVA, AUG 24, REUTER - THE LEADERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROTESTANT CHURCHES HAVE ISSUED AN APPEAL TO THEIR MEMBERS INDIRECTLY ENDORSING NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE TO THE OCCUPATION FORCES, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HERE.

ENDORSING THE PROCESS OF "DEMOCRATIC RENEWAL" OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL LEADERS, THE SYNODAL COUNCIL OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CZECHOSLOVAK BRETHREN SAID: "WE APPEAL TO YOU TO CONTINUE IN THE COURSE THAT YOU HAVE HITHERTO TAKEN AND PROVE YOURSELVES WORTHY PROMOTERS OF JUSTICE, HUMANITY AND FREEDOM."

THE APPEAL SAID: "WE REMEMBER TODAY ALL OUR BRETHREN AND SISTERS IN THE WORD WHO HAVE SOUGHT A WAY OUT OF THE MOST DIFFICULT SITUATIONS BY EXERCISING UNARMED RESISTANCE."

THE STATEMENT AS PASSED TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF BISHOP KURT SHARF OF BERLIN-BRANDENBURG, WHO WAS IN PRAGUE WHEN SOVIET FORCES OCCUPIED THE CITY.

MA/HI/CR 2155/68