

CN 24

(ATtribution REQUIRED)

X/4 C/S - DUBCEK SAID TO WANT POSTPONEMENT OF SLOVAK CONGRESS

(RELEADS CN 12)

MUNICH, AUG 25 (CMD) -- A CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO SAID EARLY TODAY THAT COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK HAD "URGENTLY" REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF THE SLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY.

RADIO FREE DANUBE, A SLOVAK-LANGUAGE STATION APPARENTLY BROADCASTING FROM SOMEWHERE NEAR BRATISLAVA, SAID THE REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT A MEETING OF THE SLOVAK CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO BE HELD AT 1000 MT SUNDAY IN THE SLOVAK NATIONAL COUNCIL BUILDING.

THE RADIO SAID DUBCEK MADE THE REQUEST IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION SATURDAY NIGHT WITH FOUR SLOVAK PRESIDUM MEMBERS WHO PHONED HIM IN MOSCOW AT THE REQUEST OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION THERE.

(CMD: THE LEADER OF THE SLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, VASIL BILAK, IS A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION IN MOSCOW.)

THE RADIO SAID THAT DUBCEK ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE SLOVAK CONGRESS "NOT ONLY ON MY OWN BEHALF BUT ALSO ON BEHALF OF COMRADES CERNIK, HUSAK, SMRKOVSKY AND SVOBODA."

HE ADDED: "YOU HAVE CONSTANTLY BACKED ME. PLEASE PROVE THAT YOU ARE STILL BEHIND ME, AND BEHIND US BY FULFILLING OUR REQUEST."

RADIO FREE DANUBE SAID THAT DEPUTY PREMIER GUSTAV HUSAK (WHO IS A SLOVAK) ALSO ASKED FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONGRESS.

THE RADIO SAID: "HE EMPHASISED THAT THIS WAS NOT A TACTICAL MOVE, BUT THAT THERE WAS A SOUND REASON IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC." (FREE DANUBE/M, 0016, AUG 25/68)

RE/JH/TB/LA 0215/68 AUG 25

115

TR