

CN 102 (ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

X/13 CS - L'HUMANITE: SOVIETS WANT TO MAINTAIN TROOPS

PARIS AUG. 25 (RFE SPECIAL/OVADIA) ---THE MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST DAILY L'HUMANITE CLAIMED SUNDAY THE SOVIET UNION REPORTEDLY MADE ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS CONDITIONAL TO THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF WARSAW PACT TROOPS IN "A SERIES OF KEY REGIONS".

IT WAS NOT KNOWN^N, SAID THE CORRESPONDENT, MAX LEON, IF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NEGOTIATOR HAD PUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FORCES IN A FIRST POSITION DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS.

"HOWEVER, IT IS REPORTED THAT THE OCCUPATION WAS CONDEMNED BY ALL" MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION, LEON SAID.

"CERTAIN OBSERVERS SUPPOSE THAT PRESIDENT SVOBODA AND OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK REPRESENTATIVES DEMANDED THE LIBERATION AND THE RETURN TO THEIR POSITION OF ALL MILITANTS AND ALL PERSONS PREVENTED FROM EXERCISING THEIR FUNCTION, AS WELL AS THE LIFTING OF ALL OBSTACLES IN THE WAY FOR THE REGULAR ACTIVITY OF THE LEGAL AUTHORITIES AND THE PARTY. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE DEMAND FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE INTERVENTION FORCES STOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE. HOWEVER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS OCCUPATION WAS CONDEMNED BY ALL".

THE COMMUNIST CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT SEVERAL HOURS HAD ALREADY BEEN SPENT ON THE ELABORATION OF THE COMMUNIQUE AND THAT IT WAS NOT BELIEVED IT WOULD BE READY UNTIL SUNDAY AFTERNOON. HENCE, PRESIDENT SVOBODA AND HIS PARTY WILL PROBABLY NOT LEAVE MOSCOW BEFORE LATER TODAY.

ACCORDING TO THE L'HUMANITE CORRESPONDENT, THE "GREAT EVENT" OF YESTERDAY WAS THE "CAPITAL FACT" OF THE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVERSATIONS OF "COMRADES DUBCEK ... AND CERNIK".

(MORE)

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