

CN 114 (ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD - HUMANITE: SOVIETS WANT ... (CN 102) XXX CERNIK

ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES QUOTED BY THE FRENCH COMMUNIST CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, THE SOVIET LEADERS DEMANDED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION "PUT A DEFINITE END" TO ALL ATTACKS AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FOUR OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SENT TROOPS INTO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT", SAID LEON, "REPORTEDLY SUBJECTED AN AGREEMENT TO THE CONTINUING PRESENCE OF CERTAIN SOVIET AND ALLIES TROOPS IN A SERIES OF KEY REGIONS."

SINCE THIS INFORMATION IS FRAGMENTARY AND OF UNCTROLLABLE ORIGIN, SAID LEON, IT WAS NECESSARY TO LIMIT ONESELF, FOR THE TIME BEING, TO TWO "MAJOR AND VERY EXPLICIT FACTS". THE FIRST, HE SAID WAS THAT THE CONVERSATIONS WERE LASTING MUCH LONGER THAN HAD BEEN ORIGINALLY INTENDED. "THIS WITNESSES OF THE FACT THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ARE ABOUT BASIC MATTER AND PROBABLY QUITE ARDUOUS", LEON SAID.

THE SECOND FACT WAS THE PRESENCE OF THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE PARTY AND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT CHIEF, "WHO HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THEIR POSITIONS AND WHOSE ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW TOOK PLACE AT A TIME AND UNDER CONDITIONS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN CLEARLY ESTABLISHED. SOME BELIEVE THEY WERE IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT SVOBODA".

LEON SAID THAT "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONFIRM", THE TWO DELEGATIONS HELD SEPARATE MEETINGS YESTERDAY (SATURDAY) MORNING. SOVIETS AND CZECHOSLOVAK RESUMED JOINT SESSIONS AT THE KREMLIN AFTER LUNCH. AT THIS MOMENT, THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE CALLED OFF, LEON SAID.

BMCG/HE

AUG 25

1449/68

F05