

X/4 C/S -- SILHAN PRESS CONFERENCE

(ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

MUNICH, AUG 25 (CMD)-- FREE RADIO BRNO TODAY QUOTED CARETAKER COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER VENEK SILHAN AS SAYING THAT "LEADING PARTY AND STATE BODIES" HAD SENT A LETTER TO CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA ASKING HIM TO CONSIDER INTERRUPTING HIS MOSCOW TALKS AND RETURNING TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

SILHAN WAS QUOTED BY RADIO BRNO AS SAYING THAT THE LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT WAS WRITTEN BY THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT.

THE LETTER IS SAID TO HAVE SUGGESTED TO SVOBODA THAT HE COME HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND TO BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION, THAN WAS POSSIBLE THROUGH REPORTS BEING SENT TO MOSCOW.

SILHAN ALSO SAID THAT THE TALKS IN MOSCOW HAD BEEN PROLONGED. ORIGINALLY IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WOULD STAY AWAY FOR ROUGHLY ONE DAY, OR ONE AND A HALF, OR TWO DAYS, BUT TODAY THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION HAS BEEN IN MOSCOW FOR THREE DAYS, AND NOBODY KNOWS WHEN THE TALKS WILL END.

SILHAN SAID THAT IF THE REPORT THAT ULBRICHT, GOMULKA, ZHIVKOV, AND KADAR WERE GOING TO MOSCOW WERE CONFIRMED, "IT MAY BE EXPECTED THAT THE TALKS WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT, AND MAY BE PROLONGED FOR ANOTHER DAY."

THE LEADING AGENCIES OF THE PARTY AND THE STATE, ACCORDING TO SILHAN, HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE VERY IMPORTANT SITUATION WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS BEEN STAYING ABROAD FOR SUCH A LONG TIME. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS HAVE CREATED A DETERIORATED SITUATION, ESPECIALLY IN PRAGUE.

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