

"THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE VERY SERIOUS NATURE OF THE SITUATION WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PROTRACTED ABSENCE ABROAD. DURING THIS TIME, THE CONDITIONS AT HOME HAVE NOT ONLY FAILED TO BECOME BETTER BUT, AT CERTAIN MOMENTS, THEY HAVE GROWN WORSE. WE HAVE IN MIND THE ACTIVITY OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS. ON THE TERRITORY OF PRAGUE, ESPECIALLY.

"THERE ARISES THE RISKS OF VARIOUS CLASHES, PROVOCATIONS WHICH -- IF SPREADING -- MIGHT LEAD TO IMMENSE, REALLY IMMENSE CONSEQUENCES. "THAT IS THE REASON WHY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT DISPATCHED A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT IN WHICH THEY INFORMED HIM ABOUT THE SITUATION, IN WHICH THEY POINT OUT A WHOLE NUMBER OF CONCRETE FACTS ATTESTING TO A VERY TENSE SITUATION AND THEY SUGGEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AT THE END OF THEIR MESSAGE WHETHER HE SHOULD NOT INTERRUPT THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO SEEK CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL, WITH OUR OWN POLITICAL ORGANS SO AS TO BE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION THAN IT IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WITH THE HELP OF DIFFERENT REPORTS DISPATCHED TO MOSCOW, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO SEE AND FEEL THE ATMOSPHERE WHICH HAS ARISEN IN OUR COUNTRY AND TO PROCEED ACCORDINGLY IN FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS."

YOU HAVE HEARD A RECORDED PART OF COMRADE VENKA SILHAN'S STATEMENT AT TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF CC/CPCS.

THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY OUR REPORTER. SHE WILL NOW REPORT ON CONCLUSIONS ARRIVED AT.

THE MOST ESSENTIAL INFORMATION I CAN GIVE YOU FROM TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IS THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY HAS BEEN WORKING, IT HAS BEEN WORKING NORMALLY, SYSTEMATICALLY AND, NATURALLY ENOUGH, UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS. IT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC THROUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS, WHOM IT INVITED TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, UNDER A LARGE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRESS AND, FINALLY, THAT THE WHOLE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL MEET SHORTLY WITH LEADING SECRETARIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL MEET SHORTLY, WITH LEADING SECRETARIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEES, EXPECTED TO ATTEND AND TAKE A STAND ON THE PAST SITUATION AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES.

THIS HAS BEEN ONE THING AND, NOW, THE OTHER ONE: THE PARTY LEADERSHIP IN THE CZECH LANDS AND IN SLOVAKIA ARE IDENTICAL IN THEIR STAND ON QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE. THIS WAS MANIFESTED

- 1) AT TODAY'S PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH GAVE FULL BACKING TO THE RESULTS OF THE 14TH CONGRESS AND ITS STANDS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION RESULTING FROM THE OCCUPATION BY THE SOVIET TROOPS.
- 2) THIS IDENTICAL VIEW HAS BEEN ATTESTED TO BY THE FACT THAT BOTH THE PRESIDUM OF THE PARTY IN THE CZECH LANDS AND THE PRESIDUM OF THE PARTY IN SLOVAKIA THINK THAT THE STAY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN MOSCOW HAS BEEN TOO PROTRACTED AND THEY URGE HIM TO SPEED UP HIS RETURN HOME. ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACT IS THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN OF THE SAME OPINION.