

CN 201

X/13 W.GER. -- BRANDT ON INVASION OF CSSR

BONN, AUG 25 (DPA/GND)-- WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT TODAY TERMED THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT FORCES "A SEVERE SETBACK FOR OUR POLICY TOWARDS THE EAST."

BRANDT, INTERVIEWED BY THE SECOND WEST GERMAN TELEVISION NETWORK, SAID THAT "IT WILL TAKE LONGER NOW TO NORMALIZE OUR RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF EAST EUROPE."

ALL PEOPLE IN WEST GERMANY AND ABROAD "ARE FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR THE DIGNITY OF A PEOPLE WANTING TO DECIDE ITS OWN WAY", THE WEST GERMAN MINISTER SAID.

APART FROM NATIONAL FEELINGS THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE DEMONSTRATING THAT "THE SOULS WERE AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DIVISIONS," HE ADDED.

BRANDT CONDEMNED RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE WEST GERMAN EXTREME RIGHT WING NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NPD) BACKING THE POLICY OF THE SOVIET UNION IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE CALLED THE ATTITUDE OF THE NPD "COMPLETELY IMMORAL."

ON THE TALKS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BRANDT SAID, THAT THE TALKS WERE "AN UNUSUAL AND EXITING EVENT" BECAUSE THEY WERE CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE LEGAL LEADERS OF THE CSSR AND LEADERS OF THE OCCUPIERS.

OBVIOUSLY THE SOVIET UNION WAS TRYING "TO GET OUT OF THE CORNER IN WHICH SHE WAS FINDING HERSELF NOW" AFTER HE BIG MISTAKE.

HWG/JON/U 2248/68/3

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