

## QUARTER MILLION SIGN PRO-PRAGUE PETITION

PARIS, AUGUST 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) - - - IN 48 HOURS, ALMOST A QUARTER-MILLION FRENCH PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED PETITIONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS. THIS IS ANNOUNCED BY THE RECENTLY-FORMED "COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE".

THE COMMITTEE SAID IT HAD GATHERED 10,000 SIGNATURES IN PARIS AND CLOSE TO 240,000 OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. IT CALLED ON THE FRENCH PEOPLE TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AND DEMONSTRATE "SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY FOR THE NATION AND THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA". IT ALSO URGED WORKERS TO JOIN THE FIVE-MINUTE SOLIDARITY STRIKE CALLED FOR 1155 HOURS IN FRANCE TODAY BY A NUMBER OF FRENCH UNIONS.

## FRENCH EXTREME LEFT CONDEMNED SOVIET INVASION

PARIS, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) - - - THE LEADERS OF A RECENTLY OUTLAWED EXTREME-LEFT YOUTH MOVEMENT IN FRANCE HAVE CONDEMNED "THE CRIMINAL AGGRESSION" CARRIED OUT AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

A STATEMENT WAS ISSUED LAST NIGHT BY EIGHT FORMER LEADERS OF THE FAR-LEFT "REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST YOUTH MOVEMENT", DISSOLVED BY GOVERNMENT ORDER AFTER LAST SPRINGS STUDENT REBELLION IN FRANCE. THE EIGHT INCLUDE ALAIN KRIVINE, GERARD PRIM AND PIERRE ROUSSET, SON OF THE GAULLIST DEPUTY, DAVID ROUSSET.

THE STATEMENT CONDEMNED "THE CRIMINAL AGGRESSION OF THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS AGAINST THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE" AND SAID "THOSE PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS ARE NOT IN PRAGUE NOR IN BELGRADE, BUT IN MOSCOW."

THE EIGHT VOICED THEIR "TOTAL SUPPORT FOR THE HEROIC RESISTANCE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE" AND CRITICIZED THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY FOR "NOT DEMANDING THE DEPARTURE OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS".

(IN ITS LATEST STATEMENTS, PUBLISHED TODAY, THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY HAS SAID THAT WITHDRAWAL OF THE INVADING FORCES IS A NECESSARY PART OF NORMALIZING THE SITUATION AND PRODUCING A POSITIVE SOLUTION.)

## YOUTH CAMPAIGN: "POSTCARDS FOR PRAGUE"

PARIS, AUGUST 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) - - - A COMMITTEE OF SUPPORT FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN CALLING ON FRENCH YOUTH TO ADDRESS STATEMENTS OF SOLIDARITY TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN PARIS. ITS AIM IS TO BUILD A FLOW OF ONE MILLION POSTCARDS INTO THE PARIS EMBASSY.

THE GROUP, "COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF CZECHOSLOVAK FREEDOM", HAS JUST BEEN FORMED BY A NUMBER OF YOUNG FRENCH ENGINEERS. AT A PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT, ITS LEADERS URGED FRENCH YOUTH TO ADDRESS "A POSTCARD OF SYMPATHY" TO THE EMBASSY. IT ALSO CALLED ON PEOPLE WHO HAD VISITED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO COME FORWARD AND SPEAK ABOUT THE COUNTRY. THE COMMITTEE LEADERS SAID THEY PLANNED A SERIES OF CONFERENCES ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN PARIS AND THE PROVINCES.