

X/13 E/W -- GREGOIRE DENIES SOVIET- LUXEMBOURG AGREEMENT REPORT

BRUSSELS, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) --

LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE GREGOIRE HAS FORMALLY DENIED A REPORT THAT LUXEMBOURG AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE CONCLUDED A CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT.

THE REPORT WAS PUBLISHED LATE LAST WEEK BY THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS, AND SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT FOR CULTURAL COOPERATION FOR 1969 HAD BEEN SIGNED AUGUST 23 IN MOSCOW BETWEEN LUXEMBOURG AND THE SOVIET UNION.

TASS SAID THE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR EXCHANGES OF CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC DELEGATIONS, TOURISM AND LITERARY DOCUMENTS AND SOME EXCHANGES OF EXHIBITIONS.

GREGOIRE SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS, BUT HE SAID NO RPT NO FINAL PROGRAM HAD BEEN AGREED UPON.

"THE PROCEDURE IS NOT RPT NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED TO BRING ABOUT A RATIFICATION UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES," THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT SAID. HE ADDED THAT LUXEMBOURG DOES NOT RPT NOT ENVISAGE SUCH A RATIFICATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

(BELGIUM AND HOLLAND HAVE SUSPENDED SOME PROGRAMS CALLING FOR EXCHANGES WITH THE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT YET FORMALLY INDICATED SIMILAR MOVES.)

BG/ O *mp* 1430/68 *W 17*