

CN 121

X/13 C/S -- GOLLAN SAYS "TRAGIC ERROR" SHOULD BE PUT RIGHT

LONDON, AUGUST 26(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)- BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY JOHN GOLLAN TOLD THE PARTYS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT A SPECIAL WEEK-END MEETING THAT A "TRAGIC ERROR" HAD BEEN COMMITTED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AND HE URGED THEM TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS AND RESTORE THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY.

THE EXECUTIVE TOOK THE USUAL STEP OF PUBLISHING GOLLANS REPORT TO THEM IN THE PARTY ORGAN, THE MORNING STAR, TODAY.

AFTER THE MEETING THE EXECUTIVE ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING IT "DEEPLY DEPLORES THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY TROOPS OF THE SOVIET UNION, HUNGARY, POLAND, BULGARIA AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" AND THAT IT WAS "UNJUSTIFIED".

THE MORNING STAR SAID THAT AFTER APPROVING GOLLANS REPORT, THE EXECUTIVE DECIDED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF THE EXECUTIVES STATEMENT, TO COMMUNICATE IT TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK CP AND OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, TO PRINT COPIES FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION, TO HOLD MEETINGS THROUGHOUT BRITAIN TO EXPLAIN THE PARTYS POSITION, AND TO REPORT THE DISCUSSION BY THE EXECUTIVE TO THE PARTY MEMBERSHIP.

(MORE) BG/HI /*np* NA 1520/68