

OVATION FOR CZECHOSLOVAK BALLET

PARIS, AUGUST 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) - - - THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL BALLET DREW THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE LAST NIGHT WHEN IT CONCLUDED THE FINAL PERFORMANCE OF ITS TWO-MONTH TOUR OF FRANCE BY SINGING THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ANTHEM UNDER THE CZECHOSLOVAK FLAG.

THE TOUR CAME TO AN END AT POITIERS IN WESTERN FRANCE, WHERE AN AUDIENCE OF SEVERAL THOUSANDS GAVE THE 37 DANCERS, SINGERS AND MUSICIANS AN IMMENSE OVATION.

SATURDAY, WHEN THEY WERE IN NORMANDY, THE COMPANY ADDRESSED TELEGRAMS TO UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL U THANT AND CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK CONDEMNING THE OCCUPATION OF THEIR COUNTRY AND THE ARREST OF THEIR LEADERS AND DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE INVADING FORCES.

FINLANDS SOVIET-FRIEND SIMONEN ATTACKS RUSSIANS

HELSINKI, AUG. 26 (RFE SPECIAL/RIDALA) -- AARE SIMONEN, JUSTICE MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PRO-SOVIET SIMONITES (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION, FAR-LEFT SPLINTER PARTY), OVER THE WEEKEND TOOK ISSUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION OVER THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"THOSE WITHIN THE FINNISH LABOR UNIONS HAVE TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING THE NECESSITY OF THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SINCE WE HAD FIRMLY BELIEVED THE DISPUTES AND CONTROVERSIES IN THE SOCIALIST WORLD COULD BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY AT THE NEGOTIATIONS TABLE," HE SAID.

"IF WE, WHO CONSIDER OURSELVES SINCERE AND RELIABLE FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET UNION, DO NOT OPENLY EXPRESS OUR OPPOSITION VIEW WITH REGARD TO THE RESTRICTION OF FREEDOM OF PEOPLE AND WITH REGARD TO ACTIVITIES BASED ON VIOLENCE, WE RENDER A DIS-SERVICE ALSO TO THE CAUSE OF FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS," SIMONEN DECLARED.

CS STUDENTS TAKE DETOUR TO DENMARK

WIESEN, BAVARIA, AUG 26 (DPA/GND) - A TOURIST GROUP OF 30 CZECHOSLOVAK STUDENTS ARRIVED YESTERDAY IN THE AFTERNOON IN WEIDEN IN BAVARIA, COMING FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK-WEST-GERMAN CROSSING-POINT OF Waidhaus.

THE GROUP STARTED LAST WEDNESDAY FOR A HOLIDAY TRIP TO DENMARK THROUGH EAST GERMANY.

IN LEIPZIG THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE OCCUPATION OF THEIR HOME COUNTRY BY THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS. HERE THEY WERE FIRST INTERNED IN A STUDENTS HOSTEL BY THE EAST GERMAN POLICE. LATER THEY WERE SENT BACK TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THEY DECIDED TO CONTINUE THEIR HOLIDAY TRIP TO DENMARK BY A DETOUR AND CROSSED THE FRONTIER INTO WEST GERMANY. "WE ARE EXTREMELY SURPRISED BY THE FRIENDLY RECEPTION FROM THE WEST GERMANS," THEIR GUIDE SAID.

TT/MBW/HE/U

1950/68 N

RT