

CN 199

X/13 C/S -- FINNISH CP NOT UNITED IN ATTITUDE TO INVASION

HELSINKI, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/RIDALA)-- LEADERS OF THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE EXPRESSED DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN A SPEECH AT A MEETING, SUNDAY, SECRETARY GENERAL VILLE PESSI AVOIDED CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET PARTY AND SAID THAT THE FINNISH PARTY SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO SHAKE FIRM CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET.

BUT FINNISH CHAIRMAN AARNE SAARINEN DECLARED AT THE SAME MEETING THAT "NOT EVEN THE SOVIET CP IS INFALLIBLE" AND ADDED THAT HE CONTINUES TO DOUBT THAT MOSCOW'S JUDGMENT IN THE PRESENT CASE HAS BEEN FULLY FOUNDED. HE ALSO ATTACKED CENSORSHIP.

AT THE SAME TIME, A DIVISION OF OPINION HAS ALSO SHOWED ITSELF IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

AT THE SUNDAY MEETING, THERE WAS A VOTE OF 24-11 WHEN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED AN EARLIER RESOLUTION OF THE PARTY POLITBURO WHICH ON AUG 22 SAID IT DID NOT "UNDERSTAND" THAT INVASION WAS NECESSARY AND URGED ALL DISPUTES TO BE SOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN OTHERS INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE THEN WENT ON TO SAY IT CONSIDERS A "POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS VERY IMPORTANT."

IT ALSO CONDEMNED "ANTI-SOCIALIST AGITATION" IT SAID WAS GOING ON IN FINLAND AS A RESULT OF THE INVASION.

IN A SEPARATE VOTE, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPROVED BY 18-10 THE DECISION BY THE POLITBUREAU TO CANCEL THE MAJOR CELEBRATIONS OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FINNISH CP OVER THE WEEKEND. THE CANCELLATION WAS ANNOUNCED AUG. 23, ALONG WITH WORD THAT INSTEAD OF THE FESTIVITIES, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WOULD MEET TO CONSIDER THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

IN HIS SPEECH - PUBLISHED IN THE PARTY ORGAN KANSAN UUTiset - PESSI SAID "THERE IS NOT YET IN THIS PHASE SUFFICIENT PRECONDITION FOR DRAWING DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS FOR THE REASONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT SEEMS AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS COULD BE POSSIBLE.

"DESPITE THE PREVAILING DIFFICULT SITUATION WE MUST RETAIN OUR ABILITY TO SOBERLY ANALYZE THE SITUATION AND AVOID ALL SUCH STEPS WHICH WOULD INCREASE DIFFICULTIES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR PARTY BECAUSE A FIRM COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION ENSURES AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. OWING TO THAT, THERE IS NO REASON TO QUESTION THE SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AND WITH THE BROTHER PARTIES OF OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES." SAID PESSI.

(MORE) MA/A 2029/68

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