

CN 233

X/13 CS -- FRENCH UNIONS REPEAT WITHDRAWAL CALL

PARIS, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS)---TWO OF FRANCES THREE STRONGEST LABOR UNIONS TONIGHT REPEATED THEIR DEMAND THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WITHDRAW INVADING FORCES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE FORCE OUVRIERE AND THE DEMOCRATIC WORKERS CONFEDERATION ISSUED SEPARATE STATEMENTS FOLLOWING A FIVE-MINUTE SOLIDARITY STRIKE OF THEIR MEMBERS AT NOON TODAY.

THE DEMOCRATIC WORKERS SAID THE SYMBOLIC STRIKE HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK WORKERS "STRUGGLING FOR THE FREEDOM OF THEIR COUNTRY AND FOR THE FREE CHOICE OF THEIR CONCEPT OF SOCIALISM."

THE UNION HOPED THAT THE EFFORTS OF INTERNATIONAL UNIONS AND THE WORLDWIDE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY WHICH WAS BUILDING UP WOULD RAPIDLY OBLIGE THE OCCUPYING POWERS TO LIBERATE CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY AND "LEAVE THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE FREE TO DETERMINE THEIR DESTINY IN COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE".

FORCE OUVRIERE SAID THAT IT "AGAIN DEMANDS THAT THE RUSSIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS ACCOMPLICES END THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA". IT ALSO REAFFIRMED ITS CALL FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS.

JON/A 2236/68/5

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