

CN 238

X/13 - E/W - HAJEK INTERVIEW IN NEW YORK

VIENNA, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -

CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK SAID IN A NEW YORK INTERVIEW TODAY THAT "IN GENERAL HE IS BEING INFORMED ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION AND THE SOVIETS IN MOSCOW."

IN THE INTERVIEW, RECORDED AT 1400 MT TODAY BY AUSTRIAN RADIO CORRESPONDENT RUDOLF STOLBER, HAJEK WAS ASKED WHO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTICIPANTS IN THE MOSCOW TALKS ARE. HE LISTED PRESIDENT SVOBODA, GUSTAV HUSAK, GENERAL DZUR AND "COMRADES INDRA AND BILAK."

HAJEK THEN CONTINUED HALTINGLY: "AT THE SAME TIME CAME NOW ... AT THE SAME TIME ARE IN MOSCOW ... ALSO THE COMRADES DUBCEK, PREMIER CERNIK AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SMRKOVSKY ... WHO JOINED THE MEETING."

HE SAID THE LENGTH OF THE TALKS, "IS AN INDICATION HOW SERIOUS THE NEGOTIATIONS AND HOW FAR AWAY THE BASIC POSITIONS OF THE PARTNERS ARE, BUT TO ELABORATE ON THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS WOULD BE SHEER SPECULATIONS".

IN HIS INTERVIEW, HAJEK SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL TELEGRAMS FROM GENERAL SVOBODA BUT THAT HE IS IN NO POSITION TO REVEAL THEIR CONTENTS.

ASKED IF HE APPROVED OF THE MONDAY MORNING 15-MINUTE STRIKE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAJEK SAID THAT IT IS UP TO THE POPULATION TO DECIDE ABOUT THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE OCCUPATION. "I AM SURE THAT THE NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE KNOWS MORE ABOUT THE SITUATION AND, THEREFORE, IT IS MORE COMPETENT TO JUDGE THAN MYSELF," HE SAID.

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