

CN 242

C/S -- WESTERN NON-COMMUNIST REACTION

MUNICH, AUG 26 (CNR)-- CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET-WARSAW PACT OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ACTIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE ARE INCREASING IN THE WESTERN WORLD.

IN LONDON, THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION TODAY CALLED ON ALL ITS AFFILIATED UNIONS TO BOYCOTT ALL TRANSPORT OPERATED BY THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY, AS A PROTEST AGAINST THOSE COUNTRIES "UNLAWFUL INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE FEDERATION REPRESENTS MORE THAN SIX MILLION MEMBERS OF SOME 350 UNIONS IN THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD. A SPOKESMAN SAID THE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE DECIDED ON THE BOYCOTT FOLLOWING APPEALS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP. STARTING AT MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, THE BOYCOTT WILL COVER ROAD, RAIL, SEA AND AIR TRANSPORTATION.

TWO OF FRANCE'S LARGEST LABOR UNIONS TODAY STAGED A FIVE-MINUTE STRIKE BY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. TONIGHT THE UNIONS REPEATED DEMANDS THAT OCCUPATION FORCES WITHDRAW FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND "LEAVE THE PEOPLE FREE TO DECIDE THEIR (SOCIALIST) DESTINY IN COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE."

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN FRANCE HAVE COLLECTED MORE THAN 250,000 SIGNATURES ON PROTEST PETITIONS WITHIN 48 HOURS.

STRENGTHENING OF THE NATO MILITARY ALLIANCE WAS FORECAST BY THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER. SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN, POUL HARTLING SAID "THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MAKES IT CLEAR THAT NATO NOW IS AS IMPORTANT AS EVER BEFORE."

(MORE) RL/U 2324/68