

VIENNA, AUG 27 (RFE SPECIAL/KOCH)-- THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IS IN FAVOR OF HOLDING A WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRANZ MAREK OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBUREAZ SAID ON HIS RETURN TO VIENNA FROM TALKS WITH ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS IN ROME OVER THE PAST WEEKEND.

THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST FUNCTIONARY MADE THE REMARKS DURING AN INTERVIEW CARRIED ON AUSTRIAN TELEVISION MONDAY EVENING AND IN AN INTERVIEW PRINTED IN THE TUESDAY EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIST ORGAN "VOLKSSTIMME".

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN "VOLKSSTIMME" ADDED THAT MAREK HAD DISCUSSED THE "UNJUSTIFIED MARCHING IN OF TROOPS OF THE FIVE WARSAW PACT STATES INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA" WHILE IN THE TEEVEE INTERVIEW MAREK SPOKE ABOUT AN "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS ON WHAT INITIATIVES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN TO CLARIFY THE PRESENT SITUATION.

IN THE TEEVEE INTERVIEW MAREK SAID THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAD NOT MADE A DECISION ON WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO.

IN THE "VOLKSSTIMME" ARTICLE, MAREK IS CITED AS HAVING SAID THAT THE ITALIANS WANTED TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE REACHING A DECISION.

BOTH "VOLKSSTIMME" AND THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW CITED MAREK AS HAVING SAID THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS CONCEPT OF SOCIALISM CLOSELY PARALLELS THAT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE WEST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS JANUARY.

BOTH IN THE TELEVISION INTERVIEW AND IN "VOLKSSTIMME", MAREK SAID THAT THE AUSTRIANS ARE FOR A WEST EUROPEAN CP MEETING WHILE THE FRENCH WERE SAID DESCRIBED AS BEING FOR A EUROPEAN CP MEETING IN WHICH THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY BOTH THE RUMANIANS AND YUGOSLAVS.

BMCG/E 1226/68