

CN 216

X/4 C/S - 1ST ADD - RELEAD SVOBODA (CN 215) XXX FOLLOWS

SVOBODA SAID (FOLLOWS FULL TEXT OF HIS RADIO ADDRESS):

"DEAR FELLOW CITIZENS,

"AFTER FOUR DAYS OF THE TALKS IN MOSCOW, WE ARE AGAIN AMONG YOU, IN OUR FATHERLAND. WE HAVE RETURNED TOGETHER WITH COMRADES DUBCEK, CERNIK, SMRKOVSKY AND ALSO THE OTHER COMRADES. NEITHER WE NOR YOU HAVE FELT LIGHTHEARTED. IN OUR THOUGHTS WE WERE WITH YOU EVERY MINUTE AND WE WERE THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU ARE PASSING THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT DAYS. WE ARE SINCERELY GLAD THAT WE ARE AGAIN AT HOME, WITH YOU. WE RECEIVED IN DEEP SORROW ESPECIALLY THE REPORTS ON THE LOSS OF THE MOST PRECIOUS THING, HUMAN LIVES AND MOSTLY YOUNG LIVES. WE FEEL DEEP SYMPATHY WITH THE SORROW OF THEIR CLOSE ONES AND FRIENDS.

"DURING OUR TALKS WE WERE STRENGTHENED BY THE COUNTLESS EXPRESSIONS OF YOUR CONFIDENCE. I THANK YOU ALL FOR THIS SINCERELY. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE NOT DISAPPOINTED IT (YOUR CONFIDENCE). THE CONSIDERATION AND HIGH DISCIPLINE WHICH ALL OF YOU SHOWED, HELPED US, CZECHS AS WELL AS SLOVAKS, THE WORKING PEOPLE AS WELL AS OUR ARMED FORCES.

"THE EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY IN THE LAST DAYS THREATENED THE MOST TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES EACH HOUR. AS A SOLDIER, I KNOW WELL WHAT BLOODSHED CAN RESULT CONFLICT BETWEEN CITIZENS AND A MODERN ARMED ARMY. SO MUCH THE MORE, AS YOUR PRESIDENT I CONSIDERED IT AS MY DUTY TO DO EVERYTHING TO PREVENT THIS SO THAT THE BLOOD OF NATIONS WOULD NOT SENSELESSLY BE SHED, NATIONS WHICH ALWAYS LIVED ON FRIENDLY TERMS. BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE BASIC INTERESTS OF OUR FATHERLAND AND ITS PEOPLE HAD TO BE INSURED.

"I DO NOT WANT TO CONCEAL THE FACT THAT PAINFUL MEMORIES WILL REMAIN FOR LONG WHICH WERE CAUSED BY THE EVENTS OF THESE DAYS. BUT WE HAVE A REAL INTEREST, HOWEVER, IN THE RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE AND SINCERE COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTRIES WHICH WERE FATEFULLY CONNECTED IN A COMMON ROAD. THE POSITION OF OUR COUNTRY IN THE PRESENT DAY WORLD IS AND CANNOT BE ELSEWHERE BUT IN THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY. AS I HAVE STRESSED IN MY PREVIOUS ADDRESSES, I LEFT FOR MOSCOW TO ATTEND THE TALKS AFTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC CONSIDERING AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE COMPLEX SITUATION A SPEEDED UP NORMALIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGITIMATE BODIES OF OUR SOCIALIST STATE AND SOCIETY, AND THEIR LEADING REPRESENTATIVES.

(MORE) BG/A *NAT* 1720/68 AUG 27 N