

CN 226

X/13 CS - WEHNER: CSSR INVASION NOT INTERNAL AFFAIR OF WARSAW PACT
(EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 2400 MT TUESDAY)

BONN, AUG 27 (RFE SPECIAL/DEWITT) - THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HERBERT WEHNER, ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER IN THE BONN CABINET TODAY REITERATED THAT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS NOT AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE WARSAW PACT WHICH WAS OF NO CONCERN TO OUTSIDERS. IN AN ARTICLE IN THE SPD NEWSPAPER "VORWAERTS" PUBLISHED WEDNESDAY, WEHNER POINTED OUT THAT RUMANIA, WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE WARSAW PACT NONETHELESS HAD SHARPLY CONDEMNED THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE FIVE COUNTRIES AGAINST PRAGUE AND IN TURN HAD COME UNDER ATTACK FROM THEM. THE SAME WAS TRUE OF YUGOSLAVIA WHICH DID NOT BELONG TO THE WARSAW PACT. "THIS ALONE SHOWS THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS CANNOT BE ASSESSED AS A MORE OR LESS INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE PACT," WEHNER SAID.

HE PREDICTED THAT THE INVASION WOULD BECOME A SOURCE OF THE MOST GRAVE CONTROVERSY AMONG THE COMMUNIST PARTIES INVOLVED WHICH WOULD HAVE THEIR REVERBERATIONS IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

WEHNER PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY CONDUCT. "THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS SET AN EVERLASTING EXAMPLE OF WHAT A PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE, EVEN UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE AND SEEMINGLY HOPELESS CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THEY REALIZE THEIR SITUATION AND ACT AS A NATION," THE SPD LEADER WROTE.

(MORE) JON/HE 1815/68/CR 2

(EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT MT TONIGHT)