

CN 251

XS - SHORTER ITEMS

BELGIANS TO PROLONG VISAS OF CZECHOSLOVAK VISITORS
BRUSSELS, AUG 27 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- THE BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS WHO WERE IN BELGIUM AT THE TIME OF THE SOVIET-LED MILITARY OCCUPATION AND WHO WISH TO REMAIN HERE MAY HAVE THEIR VISAS PROLONGED.

THE PROCEDURE FOR VISA EXTENSIONS WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY MADE PUBLIC, BUT AUTHORITIES STRESSED THAT NO CZECHOSLOVAK VISITORS WILL BE FORCED TO LEAVE BELGIUM AGAINST THEIR WILL.

(DUTCH PREMIER PETRUS DE JONG ANNOUNCED SIMILAR ACTION BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT DURING AN ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT EARLIER TODAY).

BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY CUTS TIES WITH INVADERS
BRUSSELS, AUG 27 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- THE BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY TODAY ANNOUNCED IT WAS SUSPENDING ALL CONTACTS WITH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN MONDAY AFTERNOON AT A MEETING OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY BUREAU UNDER VICE PRESIDENT JOSEPH VAN EYNDE.

IN A DECLARATION, THE BELGIAN PARTY SAID IT "...CONDEMNS ALL VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AS WELL AS THE USE OF FORCE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES. IT CALLS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS AND EXPRESSES ITS INDIGNATION AT THE ARREST OF CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS BY FOREIGN POLICE FORCES."

THE BELGIAN SOCIALISTS ALSO REQUESTED THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT "TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH ALL INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES TAKEN TO CUT SHORT" THE OCCUPATION.

IT RECOMMENDED THAT "ALL BELGIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBERS AND WINGS OF THE BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY SUSPEND ALL CONTACTS WITH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE INVADING COUNTRIES."

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