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X/13 C/S -- SWEDISH TRADE UNIONS CUT CONTACTS WITH RUSSIA

STOCKHOLM, AUG 27 -- (RFE SPECIAL/PURRE) -- THE EXECUTIVE OF THE SWEDISH CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS ADOPTED YESTERDAY A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND RESOLVED TO CANCEL THE VISIT OF STUDY DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION, SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE STATEMENT OF THE CONFEDERATION SAID:

"WITH DISMAY AND INDIGNATION WE HAVE WITNESSED HOW THE SOVIET UNION HAS OCCUPIED CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH ITS SUPERIOR MILITARY POWER. THIS ATTACK IS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE MOST ELEMENTARY OF ALL RIGHTS: THAT EVERY COUNTRY AND NATION SHOULD DETERMINE ITS FATE WITHOUT THE INTERFERENCE OF FOREIGN POWERS. THE SWEDISH CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS CALLS UPON THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO SET FREE ALL THE ARRESTED TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL LEADERS AND IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE SWEDISH CONFEDERATION UNITES 37 SEPARATE TRADE UNIONS WITH A TOTAL OF 1.6 MILLION MEMBERS. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS ALMOST ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF ALL MANUAL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN SWEDEN.

INVITATIONS TO SEND DELEGATIONS TO THE SOVIET UNION WERE MONDAY DECLINED BY TWO MORE ORGANIZATIONS. ONE WAS THE UNION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS, THE OTHER THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF SALARIED EMPLOYEES. THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAD ALREADY AGREED TO SEND DELEGATIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER, BUT THESE AGREEMENTS WERE NOW RETRACTED IN VIEW OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS. THE SALARIED EMPLOYEES ORGANIZATION ALSO CANCELLED A STUDY VISIT TO POLAND.

JON/U

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