

CN 267

X/13 CURT -- DANES PUT E/W CULTURAL TIES ON ICE

STOCKHOLM, AUG 27 -- (RFE SPECIAL/THRANE) -- THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED LAST WEEK BETWEEN BULGARIA AND DENMARK "WILL NOT BE SIGNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE OF BULGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA", SAID DANISH ENVOY MOGENS WARBERG TUESDAY.

WARBERG HEADED A DANISH DELEGATION OF THREE WHICH WAS IN BULGARIA NEGOTIATING THE AGREEMENT WHEN THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TOOK PLACE.

ALTHOUGH THE DANISH DELEGATION WAS CONSTANTLY IN THE COMPANY OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, NOBODY INFORMED THE DANES ABOUT EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SAID WARBERG.

THE DANES RECEIVED THE FIRST INFORMATION ABOUT THE INVASION THROUGH A TELEPHONE CALL FROM COPENHAGEN LAST WEDNESDAY EVENING DURING A GOVERNMENT DINNER. THE SAME EVENING THE DELEGATION WAS ORDERED HOME.

ALTHOUGH THE DELEGATION TRIED TO LEAVE THE NEXT DAY, IT HAD TO STAY IN BULGARIA UNTIL SATURDAY WHEN IT WAS PLANNED TO LEAVE. THE BULGARIANS HAD A "MULTITUDE OF EXCUSES", MR. WARBERG SAID, POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS, TICKETS THAT HAD GONE ASTRAY ETC.

WARBERG SAID THERE WAS A DECIDED LACK OF INFORMATION IN BULGARIAN NEWSPAPERS. ONE MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION COULD READ SOME BULGARIAN. EVEN FOREIGN EMBASSIES WERE LACKING INFORMATION.

IT IS NOT ONLY THE BULGARIAN CULTURAL AGREEMENT WHICH WILL SUFFER FROM THE INVASION, WARBERG SAID. ALSO THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES ALREADY SIGNED WITH OTHER OCCUPYING COUNTRIES WILL BE "OUT OF FORCE" FOR SOME TIME, HE SAID.

"IF WE HAD ANY CULTURAL ACTIVITY FROM ANY OF THOSE COUNTRIES, PEOPLE WOULD DEMONSTRATE AGAINST IT. WE CANNOT RISK THAT," HE SAID.

JON/U

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