

C/S - POPE ADDRESSES CZECHOSLOVAK PILGRIMS

CASTELGANDOLFO, ITALY, AUG 28, REUTER--POPE PAUL SAID TODAY HE WAS HAPPY THAT THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD NOT BECOME AS BAD AS ONCE SEEMED POSSIBLE.

ADDRESSING A GROUP OF CZECHOSLOVAK PILGRIMS AT HIS SUMMER RESIDENCE HERE THE POPE URGED THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE TO REMAIN "PATIENT, GOOD, STRONG AND UNITED" UNTIL A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION WAS FOUND.

THE POPE TOLD THE PILGRIMS TO INFORM THEIR COMPATRIOTS THAT THE CHURCH OF ROME LOVED THEM AND PRAYED FOR THEM.

LATER, DURING HIS WEEKLY GENERAL AUDIENCE, POPE PAUL EXPRESSED SORROW OVER THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SAID HE HOPED JUSTICE AND PEACE WOULD PREVAIL "OVER EVERY PRESENT DIFFICULTY."

THE POPE SAID HIS THOUGHTS TURNED IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN ROME TO "THE ANGUISHING SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA (THAT) HAS SADDENED US PROFOUNDLY AGAIN."

HE CALLED ON ALL MEN TO PRAY AND TO REMEMBER THE CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE AND PEACE.

"WE DON'T WANT TO PROPHECY A CATASTROPHE," THE POPE SAID. "THE SAD EXPERIENCES OF THE MODERN WORLD ARE ENOUGH TO TELL US SOMETHING OF THAT.

"WE WANT INSTEAD TO REMAIN OPTIMISTIC, FOR THE LOVE THAT WE NURTURE FOR ALL PEOPLE, FOR THE SENSE OF HONOR AND HUMANITY THAT THEY MAY NEVER DIE IN THE HEARTS OF MEN, AND FOR THE EVIDENT INTEREST THAT ALL HAVE IN A HUMAN SOLUTION OF REASON AND HARMONY.

"WE WANT TO HOPE AND PRAY THAT...JUSTICE AND PEACE MAY PREVAIL OVER EVERY PRESENT DIFFICULTY."