

CN 143

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD - VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES AHEAD (CN 142)

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THE FULL TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE MOSCOW TALKS IS THE FIRST STAGE IN THE PROCESS OF OVERCOMING THE ACUTE AND DANGEROUS PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE MOSCOW TALKS FACED PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE THEY TOOK PLACE AFTER MILITARY ACTION BY ONE SIDE AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE OTHER, AND AFTER MOST OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR WORK.

A VITALLY IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE TALKS IS THAT THE RESTRAINTS PLACED ON THOSE LEADERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AND THEY NOW RESUME THEIR RIGHTFUL POSITIONS AS THE ELECTED LEADERS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY.

AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS ALSO BEEN REACHED ON THE COMPLETE DEPARTURE OF THE TROOPS OF THE FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

THE SOONER THIS PART OF THE AGREEMENT CAN BE CARRIED OUT THE BETTER, IN THE INTERESTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

AS WELL AS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA MEETINGS, THE MOSCOW STATEMENT SPEAKS OF SUPPORT FROM THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE POLICY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE DECISIONS OF THE JANUARY AND MAY MEETINGS OF ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

(MORE)

BG/A *mt* 1336/68

AUG 28 *K*