

CN 212

X/4 CS - SMRKOVSKY BEGS YOUTH NOT TO HOLD RALLY TODAY

MUNICH, AUG 28 (CMD)- CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN JOSEF SMRKOVSKY TODAY "BEGGED" PRAGUE YOUTHS AND STUDENTS NOT RPT NOT TO HOLD A RALLY WHICH TO HIS KNOWLEDGE WAS TO TAKE PLACE ON WENCESLAS SQUARE AT 1700 HOURS MT THIS AFTERNOON.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF SMRKOVSKY WAS CARRIED BY RADIO "FREE" PRAGUE AT 1654 THIS AFTERNOON:

"I HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT, ALLEGEDLY, A RALLY OF YOUTHS AND STUDENTS IS TO TAKE PLACE ON WENCESLAS SQUARE AT 1700 HOURS THIS AFTERNOON."

"UNDER OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, I WOULD WELCOME SUCH A RALLY AND I WOULD PARTICIPATE IN IT."

"UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ARE LIVING IN, I BEG ALL TO FOREGO THIS RALLY. I REPEAT, I BEG FOR THIS."

"THE CONSEQUENCES COULD BE UNFORESEEABLE. I HAVE REASONS FOR SUCH WORDS. ONCE MORE, I BEG ON MY ONE AND COMRADE DUBCEK'S BEHALF, ON BEHALF OF COMRADE CERNIK AND OF COURSE ABOVE ALL ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT SVOBODA, GIVE THIS RALLY UP."

"DO NOT RPT NOT COME TO ATTENDIT, DO NOT RPT NOT GIVE ANYBODY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AIMS WHICH COULD RESULT IN TRAGEDY. THIS IS MY MESSAGE TO YOU, WITH REGARD ALSO THT ECOMING DAYS."

THE RADIO REPEATED SMIRKOVSKY'S APPEAL ONCE AGAIN.

(RADIO FREE PRAGUE DOMESTIC/M, AUG 28/1654)

JH/JM/BG/L

1742/68/CR