

CN 216

X/4 CS - 1ST ADD APPEAL FOR CALM (CN 140) XXX PEOPLE

(NOTE TO EDITORS: ESPECIALLY USEFUL - OPD)

THE FOLLOWING IS A TEXT OF THE RADIO PRAGUE BROADCAST:

WE ARE NOW READING A STATEMENT BY COMRADES SVOBODA, CERNIK, DUBCEK, AND SMRKOVSKY:

DEAR FELLOW CITIZENS, OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME. WE SHARE YOUR FEELINGS AND WE UNDERSTAND YOU. WE ARE AWARE OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN RETURN FOR THE CONFIDENCE YOU HAVE GIVEN US. WE BEG YOU IN THE NAME OF EVERYTHING THAT IS DEAR TO OUR NATIONS: DO NOT ALLOW YOUR EMOTIONS TO CARRY YOU AWAY INTO ACTIONS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN NATIONAL CATASTROPHE. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON YOU, AND YOUR DECISIONS. MAKE YOUR DECISIONS IN A STATEMANLIKE AND WISE MANNER. WE KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO THAT.

THE MAIN PROBLEM TODAY IS: CAN WE FIND A WAY OUT OF THE REALISTIC SITUATION AND GOVERN OURSELVES IN THIS GRAVE MOMENT, OR WILL WE ALLOW ACTS BY IRRESPONSIBLE OR IMPRUDENT PEOPLE OR BY FOES OF SOCIALISM TO PROVOKE ACTIONS BY THE TROOPS STILL IN OUR COUNTRY? ALL YOU WHO LOVE OUR SOCIALIST COUNTRY: DO YOU WANT THE TROOPS TO RETURN TO THE STREETS OF OUR TOWNS, FROM WHICH MOST OF THEM HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED AND WILL CONINUE TO DEPART? DOES ANYONE THINK THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO CONDUCT OUR OWN GOVERNMENT? WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN DO IT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

YOU HAVE DEMANDED THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES YOU ELECTED SHOULD RESUME THEIR FUNCTIONS. THEY ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU AND FEEL OBLIGED TO YOU UNTIL THE END OF THEIR LIVES. YET WE ASK YOU AT THIS JUNCTURE FOR ONE THING ONLY: SUPPORT ALL THAT FOR WHICH WE HAVE RETURNED TO OUR FUNCTIONS, THE MATTERS WHICH GIVE MEANING TO YOUR AND OUR ENDEAVORS. SUPPORT THE EFFORTS FOR CONSOLIDATION SO THAT THE TROOPS CAN GRADUALLY BEGIN TO LEAVE OUR TERRITORY AND FINALLY DEPART ALTOGETHER. OPPOSE WITH US EVERYTHING THAT STANDS IN THE WAY OF THESE EFFORTS.

HELP US TO PREVENT PROVOCATIONS AND PREVENT GAMBLER WITH THE FATE OF OUR NATIONS. IN THIS LIES THE WHOLE SENSE OF OUR ACTIONS. THIS IS THE PRECONDITION ENABLING US TO CONTINUE THE POLICY IN WHICH YOU HAVE PLEDGED YOUR CONFIDENCE. YOUR CONFIDENCE IS BINDING FOR US. YET, AUTHORIZED BY YOU, IT IS OUR DUTY TO CONDUCT THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY. MAKE THIS POSSIBLE FOR US, IF YOU EXPECT US TO SERVE YOU.

SIGNED: LUDVIK SVOBODA, PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC; JOSEF SMRKOVSKY, ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY; OLDRIK CERNIK, FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC; ALEXANDER DUBCEK, FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

(RADIO PRAGUE IN CZECH, 1151)

EH/BG/E 1745/68/CR