

X/4 C/S - 2ND ADD - CERNIK TO REMAIN AS PREMIER (CN 219) XXX COUNTRY

THE PREMIER PRAISED THE UNITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, AND ITS "TREMENDOUS SPIRIT" PARTICULARLY AS EXPRESSED IN CZECH-SLOVAK RELATIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN FIRMED AND STRENGTHENED DURING THE CRISIS.

CERNIK ALSO THANKED THE ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR IN THE CRISIS WHICH, HE SAID, PREVENTED BLOODSHED.

"IF THEY HAD NOT DONE SO, THE WAY OUT WOULD HAVE BEEN INCOMPARABLY MORE DIFFICULT," HE SAID, IN HIS EIGHTEEN MINUTE ADDRESS.

HE PLEDGED THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT WOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLE THAT WHAT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED BY THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE IMPOSED BY ANY OTHER FORCE.

"WE ASK WITH TEARS IN OUR EYES WHAT WILL HAPPEN TODAY AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW. WE MUST FACE THE REALITY THAT THE WAY OUT IS A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS."

CERNIK SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY WANTED TO CONTINUE TO IMPLEMENT THE ACTION PROGRAM EVOLVED SINCE THE JANUARY COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENARY SESSION.

BUT, FOR THIS, CERNIK SAID, "IT IS NECESSARY TO TAKE MORE RESOLUTE ACTIONS AGAINST THE FORCES WHICH DISTURB PUBLIC ORDER. THERE MUST BE NO PROVOCATIONS."

CERNIK REFERRED TO THE "ABNORMAL SITUATION" CREATED BY PRESENCE OF TROOPS.

"I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, FELLOW CITIZENS, BUT WE CAN COME OUT OF THIS SITUATION ONLY IF WE KEEP COOL HEADS.

(MORE) RE/JM/E

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