

X/13 C/S -- FINN CP DEPUTY LEADER ON CSSR AND DIVISIONS

HELSINKI, AUG 29 -- (RFE SPECIAL/RIDALA) -- ERKKI SALOMAA, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY SAID LAST NIGHT THAT EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TENDED TO DRAW A LINE THROUGH THE COMMUNIST WORLD.

"THE MOST TRAGIC THING IS THAT ALSO AMONG THE COMMUNISTS, IT IS ATTEMPTED TO DRAW A LINE SO THAT ALL THOSE WHO CANNOT APPROVE THE MESSAGE BY THE FIVE COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT ARE BRANDED AS BEING DIRECT ADVOCATES OF INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM," HE SAID.

"IF THAT REALLY WOULD BE THE CASE, THE FORCES OF PEACE, PROGRESS, SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY IN MANY COUNTRIES WOULD REPRESENT A SMALL MINORITY ONLY. IT IS TO BE EMPHASIZED THAT THOSE COMMUNISTS AND PEOPLES DEMOCRATS IN FINLAND AND ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE WHO HAVE TAKEN A NEGATIVE STAND TOWARD THE OCCUPATION HAVE NOT DONE SO IN A TACTICAL SENSE.

"THE QUESTION HAS BEEN OF A SOLUTION ON PRINCIPLES DICTATED BY A CONVICTION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN AN EASY ONE. FOR MANY OF US, IT HAS MEANT A DEEP PERSONAL CRISIS.

"THE UNANIMOUS APPEAL BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK CP TO THE COMMUNISTS OF ALL COUNTRIES, IN WHICH OUR INTERNATIONAL DUTY IS IN PROTECTING THE HUMAN FAITH IN SOCIALISM, COULD NOT LEAVE US INDIFFERENT.

"WE COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM TAKING A STAND, TO DISSOCIATE OURSELVES FROM THE LINE OF RUSSIA AND THE FOUR OTHERS. WE CANNOT CLOSE OUR EYES TO THE FACT THAT THE MUTUAL DISTRUST HAS INCREASED IN THE PAST DAYS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE HOW SOON THE TRACES OF THIS TRAGEDY CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR MOVEMENT," SALOMAA CONCLUDED.