

X/13 C/S -- CSSR ENVOY THANKS FINNS FOR SYMPATHY

HELSINKI, AUG 29 -- (RFE SPECIAL/RIDALA) -- CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND, CENIK URBAN, YESTERDAY THANKED THE FINNISH PUBLIC FOR ITS SUPPORT AND THE FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY FOR ITS SYMPATHY.

URBANS STATEMENT WAS TRANSLATED INTO FINNISH BY RADIO FINLAND AND THEN BROADCAST.

URBAN EMPHASIZED HIS COUNTRYS GRATITUDE ALSO FOR THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. HE ALSO SAID:

"THE COMPROMISE REACHED IN MOSCOW IS A NEW REALITY. THE MOST ESSENTIAL THING IS THAT FOREIGN TROOPS STILL ARE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"NO CZECHOSLOVAK LEADER HAS CONSIDERED REALISTIC THE PROPOSALS THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA BE DECLARED NEUTRAL, BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO DENY THAT THE TRAVAILS OF THE LAST DAYS WILL BE FELT SORELY FOR A LONG TIME."

MEANTIME, THE CZECHOSLOVAK FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, FOUNDED IN TURKU A WEEK AGO, YESTERDAY TURNED IN TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY A PETITION OF SYMPATHY FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, SIGNED BY 6,000 FINNISH CITIZENS.

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