

CN 9

X/13 W/GER - WRITER KOHOUT WANTS FIRMNESS IN PRAGUE

MUNICH, AUG 30 (GND/GAERTNER) - CZECHOSLOVAK WRITER PAVEL KOHOUT HAS SAID THE PRESENT PRAGUE LEADERS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT GIVE UP. INTERVIEWED IN THE LIBERAL HAMBURG WEEKLY, DIE ZEIT, ON SALE THURSDAY, HE SAID:

"IT WOULD BE A MORAL CATASTROPHE IF THOSE PEOPLE (IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA) ONE BELIEVES IN TODAY, BECAUSE THEY REALLY FORMULATED THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE DURING THE PAST MONTHS, WERE TO GIVE IN OR GIVE UP."

THE WEEKLY QUOTED KOHOUT AS SAYING HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHETHER THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE COULD CONTINUE ITS LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN VIEW OF THE INVASION.

"I HAVE TO SAY QUITE FRANKLY: I DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW. I DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW. SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED WHICH SHOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE HAPPENED", KOHOUT ADDED.

BUT HE SAID THAT "WE HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BECAUSE THE WORLD IS DIVIDED. THAT AGAIN IS CZECH REALISM."

THE ONLY POSSIBILITY TO REESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN PRAGUE AND MOSCOW WAS A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOVIET UNION, KOHOUT SAID, ADDING:

"DURING THE LAST TWENTY YEARS OF SOVIET HISTORY, IS HAS HAPPENED: ONCE IT WAS AFTER STALINS DEATH AND THE SECOND TIME AFTER THE CARRIBEAN CRISIS, THAT A NEW LEADERSHIP TOOK A NEW STAND."

"IF A PART OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP OR A NEW LEADERSHIP WOULD TERM THE EVENTS AN UNFORTUNATE ERROR AND EXCUSE THEMSELVES THEN THERE WOULD BE A POSSIBILITY TO RETURN TO NORMAL RELATIONS."

(MORE) PRW/LA 0045/68 AUG 30 +

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