

CN 98

CS - PRAVDA ATTACKS SIK (W/CN - 43 AND 97)

MOSCOW, AUGUST 30 (CNR/AGENCIES) - THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER ATTACKED CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY PREMIER OTA SIK BY NAME TODAY.

THE ATTACK CAME IN A PRAVDA ARTICLE BY COMMENTATORS VIKTOR MAYEVSKY AND VASILY JURAVSKI FROM PRAGUE.

THE ARTICLE ATTACKED THE "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" WHO, IT SAID, HAD FLED CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IT SINGLED OUT SIK "AND HIS COMPANY, WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ANTI-PEOPLE INTRIGUES."

SIK AND OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK, WERE IN YUGOSLAVIA WHEN THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

EXCEPT FOR A TRIP TO RUMANIA AND A MEETING WITH RUMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU, SIK HAS BEEN IN YUGOSLAVIA SINCE THEN. HAJEK, WHO ATTENDED THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IS NOW IN VIENNA.

PRAVDA ALSO SAID TODAY THAT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA "IS NOT YET COMPLETED."

THE NEWSPAPER SAID "A DIVISION OF FORCES" WAS TAKING PLACE IN THE OCCUPIED COUNTRY, BUT ADDED THAT "UNDERSTANDING IS GROWING AMONG THE PEOPLE THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S CARDINAL INTERESTS ARE INSEPARABLE FROM THE INTERESTS" OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES OCCUPYING IT.

(MORE)

MBW/HE/1005

1205/68