

X/13 BERLIN -- TRADITIONAL EXPELLEE RALLY IN WEST BERLIN SUNDAY

BERLIN, AUG 30 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH) -- THE WEST GERMAN FEDERATION OF EXPELLEES WILL CONDUCT ITS TRADITIONAL "TAG DER DEUTSCHEN (DAY OF THE GERMANS)" IN WEST BERLIN TOMORROW AND SUNDAY, BUT IN VIEW OF THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THE ORGANIZERS HAVE CANCELLED A "FESTIVE PARADE" DOWN THE KURFUEIRSTENDAMM SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE EXPELLEE FEDERATION, GERHARD DEWITZ, ALSO SAID THAT FOR THE SAME REASON THE ORGANIZATION HAD ASKED THE CITY GOVERNMENT TO DROP THE RAISING OF FLAGS ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS THIS YEAR.

THE EXPELLEES HAD DECIDED ON THESE MODIFICATIONS IN VIEW OF "THE TRAGIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR NEIGHBOR COUNTRY," DEWITZ SAID, ADDING THAT "IN THIS SITUATION WE CANNOT RPT NOT HAVE A GAY CELEBRATION."

AS IN PAST YEARS, THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE "TAG DER DEUTSCHEN" OBSERVANCE WILL BE A PUBLIC RALLY IN THE 20,000-SEAT WALDBUEHNE OPEN-AIR THEATER ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON (1500 MT).

ACCORDING TO AN EXPELLEE SPOKESMAN, WEST GERMAN EXPELLEE MINISTER KAI UWE VON HASSEL WILL BE THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE RALLY WHICH WILL ALSO BE ADDRESSED BY EXPELLEE FEDERATION CHAIRMAN AND SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY REINHOLD REHS AND WEST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ.

SINCE 1968 HAD BEEN DECLARED THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF HUMAN RIGHTS" BY THE UNITED NATIONS, THIS YEARS "TAG DER DEUTSCHEN" HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER THE GENERAL MOTTO "HUMAN RIGHTS -- FOUNDATION OF PEACE."

CRITICISM THAT THE EXPELLEES HAVE CHOSEN SEPT. 1, THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR TWO, FOR THEIR GATHERING HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SILESIAN LANDSMANNSCHAFT, KRAFTO (SIC) VON METNITZ.

THE FUNCTIONARY SAID IN BERLIN THAT THE EXPELLEES WERE WELL AWARE OF THE "PROBLEMATIC NATURE" OF SUCH AN EVENT ON THIS PARTICULAR DAY.

BUT VON METNITZ POINTED OUT THAT WHEN TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IT WAS "INDISPENSABLE" TO RECALL ALSO THAT IT WAS SPECIFICALLY HITLER WHO, BY HIS DISRESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HAD INITIATED "THAT MOMENTOUS DEVELOPMENT UNDER WHICH WE STILL MUST SUFFER TODAY."

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