

X/13 BERLIN-- SCHUETZ SHARPLY REJECTS GDR PROTEST (RELEADS CN 168)

BERLIN, AUG. 30 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH)-- WEST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ TONIGHT SHARPLY REJECTED A PROTEST OF THE EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AGAINST AN EXPELLEE MEETING IN WEST BERLIN TOMORROW AND SUNDAY.

"PEOPLE WHO, LIKE (EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER OTTO) WINZER, WELCOME AND CELEBRATE A MILITARY INTERVENTION, WHO EVERY DAY AND EVERY HOUR INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A PEOPLE OF WHICH THEY HAVE CLAIMED IT WAS A FRATERNAL NATION, WISH TO TELL US AT THIS VERY TIME WHAT WE MAY OR MAY NOT RPT NOT DO," SCHUETZ SAID IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TO THE PRESS.

THE GOVERNING MAYOR ADDED THAT HE WAS "EMPHATICALLY DENYING THEM ANY RIGHT TO COMMENT ON OUR AFFAIRS OR EVEN TO GIVE US ADVICE."

THE STATEMENT OF MAYOR SCHUETZ WAS IN RESPONSE TO A PROTEST OF THE EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTRY EARLIER TODAY AGAINST THE TRADITIONAL OBSERVANCE OF A "TAG DER DEUTSCHEN" (DAY OF THE GERMANS) BY THE WEST GERMAN EXPELLEE FEDERATION IN WEST BERLIN OVER THE WEEKEND.

A SPOKESMAN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN EAST BERLIN HAD DEMANDED "WITH ALL DUE EMPHASIS" THAT THE EXPELLEE MEETING BE BANNED AND MEASURES BE TAKEN BY THE COMPETENT WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES TO ENSURE "THAT NO SIMILAR PROVOCATIONS AGAINST PEACE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE."

THE EAST GERMAN SPOKESMAN WARNED THAT THE INITIATORS AND ORGANIZERS OF SUCH "REVANCHIST INCITING RALLIES" IN WEST BERLIN WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES."

(MORE) MA/E 2056/68+

RT