

X/4 C/S - MINISTRY OFFICIALS PRAISE PAVEL (W/ CN 141)

MUNICH, AUGUST 31 (CMD)- CZECHOSLOVAK INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS TONIGHT ISSUED A STATEMENT PRAISING JOSEF PAVEL, WHO HAS RESIGNED AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

THE STATEMENT WAS READ BY RADIO PRAGUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF PAVEL'S RESIGNATION, AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY JAN PELNARZ.

THE STATEMENT WAS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDUM OF THE PARTY COMMITTEE AT THE MINISTRY, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE YOUTH AND SERVICE BRANCHES AT THE MINISTRY. THEY SAID THEY "FULLY UNDERSTOOD" THE REASONS WHICH LED TO PAVEL'S RESIGNATION.

AS READ BY RADIO PRAGUE, THE STATEMENT SAID: "ON THIS OCCASION WE AGAIN HIGHLY EVALUATE HIS (PAVEL'S) WORK WHICH AIMED AT A CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAM OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR.

"BY HIS DEDICATED AND INDEFATIGABLE WORK COMRADE PAVEL DID MUCH TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AMONG THE PUBLIC IN OUR CZECHOSLOVAK SECURITY, WHICH AS WHOLE STOOD UNSHAKEABLY BEHIND THE POLICY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY HEADED BY COMRADE DUBCEK, BEHIND THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, COMRADE SVOBODA, BEHIND THE GOVERNMENT OF COMRADE SVOBODA, AND BEHIND COMRADE SMRKOVSKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY," SAID THE STATEMENT.

(RADIO PRAGUE DOMESTIC, M, AUG 13, 1968, 1858)

RE/RGS/ BG/3 2050/68/ASB/AS