

C/S - 2200 INTRO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MUNICH, AUGUST 31 (CNR)- CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK ADDRESSED A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN PRAGUE TODAY FOLLOWING THE REPLACEMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S INTERIOR MINISTER.

RADIO PRAGUE SAID THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING -- ALSO ATTENDED BY DELEGATES TO THE 14TH PARTY CONGRESS -- BEGAN AT 1300 MT AND AT LAST REPORT - 1900 MT - IT WAS STILL CONTINUING.

DUBCEK SPOKE OF THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, THE PARTY'S "URGENT TASKS" AND PERSONNEL CHANGES IN TOP PARTY ECHELONS, THE RADIO SAID.

HE WAS FOLLOWED TO THE ROSTRUM BY PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA, AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN JOSEF SMRKOVSKY.

THE RADIO REPORT DID NOT GIVE DETAILS OF THEIR SPEECHES.

THE RESIGNATION OF INTERIOR MINISTER JOSEF PAVEL, ONE OF THE REFORM MINISTERS, WAS THE FIRST RESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT HEAD SINCE THE COUNTRY'S OCCUPATION BY WARSAW PACT TROOPS.

PRAGUE RADIO SAID HE WAS RELEASED FROM HIS POST "AT HIS OWN REQUEST" AND REPLACED EARLY TODAY BY JAN PELNAR (CORRECT), CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST BOHEMIAN REGIONAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RESIGNATION ANNOUNCEMENT, THE RADIO READ A STATEMENT BY INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS PRAISING PAVEL.

THE STATEMENT SAID HE HAD "DONE MUCH TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AMONG THE PUBLIC IN OUR CZECHOSLOVAK SECURITY, WHICH AS A WHOLE STOOD UNSHAKEABLY BEHIND THE POLICY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY COMRADE DUBCEK, BEHIND PRESIDENT SVOBODA, AND BEHIND COMRAD SMRKOVSKY."

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