

CN 20

X/4 C/S -- SUPPORT FOR SVOBODA, DUBCEK

MUNICH, SEPT 1 (CMD)-- ONE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S MOST PROMINENT POETS, JAROSLAV SEIFERT, HAS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA EXPRESSING "ADMIRATION FOR THE COURAGE OF THE ... PRESIDENT WHOSE SEAT S PRAGUE CASTLE, A PLACE WHERE EVENTS DECISIVE FOR THE FATE OF OUR STATE TOOK PLACE."

SEIFERT'S LETTER WAS REPORTED LAST NIGHT BY RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRANSMISSION.

THE POET WAS QUOTED AS WRITING THAT PRAGUE'S HRADCANY CASTLE "IS A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY". SEIFERT ALSO SAID IN HIS LETTER THAT THE "CZECH AND SLOVAK PEOPLE HAVE A MUCH CLOSER RELATION TO THEIR HISTORY THAN THE BIG NATIONS WHICH DO NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF THEIR FATE."

AFTER PAYING TRIBUTE TO SVOBODA PERSONALLY FOR HIS BRAVERY IN TWO WORLD WARS AND DURING THE CURRENT CRISIS, SEIFERT CONCLUDED "WHEN WE TALKED TO ONE ANOTHER LAST, IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY. THE WINDOW OF YOUR STUDY WAS OPEN. AT THAT TIME I ENVIED YOU THE SPLENDID VIEW OF PRAGUE, THE GARDENS, THE RUSTLING LEAVES ON THE TREES AND THE BUSTLE OF THE WORKING DAY. TODAY, I DO NOT RPT NOT ENVY YOU."

THE PLENUM OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL FRONT MEETING IN OSTRAVA YESTERDAY HEARD A SITUATION REPORT FROM RUDOLF PESKA, ITS CHAIRMAN.

IN THE COURSE OF THE SESSION, THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE SAID IT "UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTED LUDVIK SVOBODA, ALEXANDER DUBCEK, JOSEF SMRKOVSKY AND OLDRICH CERNIK."

(RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN ENGLISH AND CZECH/F, AUG 31)

JM/BMCG/U

0635/68

17

M