

X/13 BERLIN -- CSSR EVENTS VIEWED AS WARNING, NOT DISCOURAGEMENT

(AMPLIFIES CN-78,53)

BERLIN SEPT. 1 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH)--SEVERAL WEST GERMAN POLITICAL LEADERS TODAY COMMENTED ON THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SAID THAT WHILE THE MILITARY INVASION OF THE COUNTRY BY "FRATERNAL" ARMIES SHOULD BE TAKEN AS A WARNING BY THE WEST AGAINST PREMATURE CONCESSIONS TO THE SOVIETS, WEST GERMANY WOULD CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF PEACE AND DETENTE UNDISCOURAGED.

WEST GERMAN EXPELLEE MINISTER KAI UWE VON HASSEL TOLD AN EXPELLEE MEETING IN WEST BERLIN THAT THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD KEEP UP ITS "SOBER AND ILLUSION-FREE EFFORTS" TO HELP BRING ABOUT A STABLE PEACE ORDER IN EUROPE, "EVEN IF THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SET BACK BY YEARS AS A RESULT OF THE LATEST EVENTS."

THE MEETING AT THE WALDBUEHNE OPEN-AIR THEATER HERE WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRADITIONAL ANNUAL EXPELLEE-ORGANIZED "TAG DER DEUTSCHEN." THE RALLY AT THE 20,000-SEAT AMPHITHEATER WAS CONDUCTED IN RAINY WEATHER AND, ACCORDING TO POLICE ESTIMATES, ATTENDED ONLY BY ABOUT 7,000 TO 8,000 PEOPLE.

SEVERAL INCIDENTS OCCURRED DURING THE MEETING WHEN YOUNG LEFTISTS KEPT INTERRUPTING THE OBSERVANCE BY SHOUTING THE NAZI SALUTE "SIEG HEIL," SINGING THE INTERNATIONALE AND HECKLING THE SPEAKERS. POLICE PREVENTED SERIOUS CLASHES BETWEEN THE EXPELLEE AUDIENCE AND THE YOUNG DEMONSTRATORS BY ISOLATING AND EVENTUALLY REMOVING THE HECKLERS FROM THE ARENA.

VON HASSEL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH A "REASSESSMENT OF PRACTICAL POLICY" WOULD BE "INDISPENSABLE," THE DEVELOPMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED BONN'S DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE PEACE AND ITS READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A REAL LESSENING OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS.

IT WAS IMPORTANT NOW NOT RPT NOT TO ABANDON WEST GERMANY'S NEW OSTPOLITIK "EVEN IF AT THE MOMENT NO NEW POINTS OF DEPARTURE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS ARE DISCERNIBLE," HE SAID.

VON HASSEL PREDICTED THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION IN EASTERN EUROPE, WHICH HAD BECOME VISIBLE TO EVERYONE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, COULD NO LONGER BE HALTED.

VON HASSEL REJECTED RADIO MOSCOW CHARGES THAT CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER HAD ISSUED "A DECLARATION OF WAR." VON HASSEL TERMED THE SOVIET ACCUSATIONS AGAINST WEST GERMANY "SLANDEROUS ATTACKS AND IMPUTATIONS" AND SAID THEY ONLY SERVED THE PURPOSE OF FINDING A PRETEXT FOR THE INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

ALSO ADDRESSING THE EXPELLEE RALLY IN WEST BERLIN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WEST GERMAN FEDERATION OF EXPELLEES, SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY REINHOLD REHS, RENEWED THE PLEDGE OF THE GERMAN EXPELLEES TO SUPPORT A POLICY OF PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING. THE EXPELLEES CONTINUED TO BE DETERMINED NOT RPT NOT TO BE PUSHED "EITHER INTO ISOLATION OR INTO RADICALIZATION," HE SAID.

WITH REFERENCE TO COMMUNIST CHARGES THAT THE MEETING OF THE EXPELLEES IN WEST BERLIN WAS A PROVOCATION, REHS SAID:

"WE ARE NOT RPT NOT PROVOKING ANYONE, AND NOBODY NEEDS TO FEEL PROVOKED BY US."

MEANWHILE, WEST GERMAN MINISTER OF ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS HERBERT WEHNER CAUTIONED IN A RADIO ADDRESS HERE TODAY THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A DEFINITE ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

(MORE) EH/L 1915/68

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