

MUNICH, SEPT 1 (GND/MACDONALD) - THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION WHICH WAS TO HAVE ATTENDED THIS WEEK'S CONFERENCE OF THE WEST GERMAN METAL WORKERS UNION (I.G. METALL) HERE HAS CALLED OFF ITS VISIT BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

THE UNION -- WEST GERMANY'S BIGGEST -- HAD CANCELLED INVITATIONS SENT EARLIER TO TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA IN PROTEST AGAINST THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE ARMIES OF THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES.

A RUMANIAN DELEGATION, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE PART AND HAS ALREADY ARRIVED IN MUNICH. A YUGOSLAV GROUP IS ALSO EXPECTED.

THE CONFERENCE OPENS TOMORROW AND WILL LAST ONE WEEK.

THE CHAIRMAN OF I.G. METALL, OTTO BRENNER, EXPRESSED REGRET TODAY THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE UNABLE TO COME.

HE SAID A TELEGRAM HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS ASKING FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT, UNDER THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION, IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR A DELEGATION TO ATTEND.

THE EXECUTIVE OF I.G. METALL HAS ALSO REJECTED A SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR CLOSER CONTACTS WITH THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND EAST GERMANY.

BG/EH/L 2112/68

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