

X/13 - WORLD - PHILOSOPHY CONGRESS OPENING DISCUSSION OVERSHADOWED
BY SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION (WITH CN 93)

VIENNA, SEPT 2 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- THE OPENING DISCUSSION OF THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY - CONVENING IN VIENNA FROM 2ND TO 9TH SEPTEMBER - WAS OVERSHADOWED BY THE IMPACT OF THE RECENT MILITARY INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

A ROUNDTABLE OF SIX, HELD ON SUNDAY NIGHT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF VIENNA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY HEAD, LEO GABRIEL, HAD TO DISCUSS "THE ROLE OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD OF SCIENCE," BUT PRAGUE PHILOSOPHER JAN PATOCKA REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE TOGETHER WITH SOVIET PROFESSOR THEODOR OISERMANN FROM MOSCOW. THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS, RAYMOND KLIBANSKY FROM MONTREAL, CHAIM PERELMAN FROM BRUSSELS, HANS GEORG GADAMER FROM HEIDELBERG AND KARL POPPER FROM GREAT BRITAIN DECLARED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH PATOCKA.

AFTER TEDIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND AFTER AN INTERVENTION OF THE CONGRESS CHAIRMAN, AUSTRIAN PROFESSOR LEO GABRIEL, PATOCKA WITHDREW FROM THE PANEL AND HIS PLACE WAS TAKEN BY YUGOSLAV PROFESSOR VLADIMIR FILIPOVIC FROM BELGRADE.

THE DISCUSSION, STILL UNDER THE IMPACT OF PATOCKAS REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE, PROCEEDED NOT TOO WELL AND AFTER THE MEMBERS OF THE PANEL HAD AGREED THAT "PHILOSOPHY IN OUR TIMES MUST BE (A). CRITICAL AND (B), FREE", SOVIET PROFESSOR OISERMANN WAS PRESENTED WITH THE QUESTION WHETHER SOVIET PHILOSOPHY IS ABLE TO JUSTIFY THE MILITARY INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

OISERMANN TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT ON THE FIRST PLACE IT IS NECESSARY TO ANALYZE AND ASSESS THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN TERMS OF "REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION." BUT HIS DE-LIBERATIONS WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE PANEL AND THE DISCUSSION FADED OUT IN WHAT AUSTRIAN PROFESSOR GABRIEL CALLED "AN UN-SATISFACTORY WAY."

JON/E 1605/68 *ms*