

X/13 W. GER - KOHOUT AND GRASS DISCUSS OCCUPATION OF CSSR

MUNICH, SEPT 2 (GND/GAERTNER) - PRAGUE WRITER PAVEL KOHOUT SAID OVER WEST GERMAN TELEVISION TONIGHT THAT "THE WORLD WAS THROWN BACK TWENTY YEARS BY THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

KOHOUT AND WEST GERMAN WRITER GUENTER GRASS WERE DISCUSSING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT FORCES; THE DISCUSSION WAS TELEVISED BY THE FIRST WEST GERMAN TV NETWORK.

GRASS SAID HE WAS "ESPECIALLY ASHAMED OF THE FACT THAT FOR THE SECOND TIME GERMAN SOLDIERS WERE ON CZECHOSLOVAK SOIL AS OCCUPIERS.

WHILE "SOLELY RESPONSIBLE THE FIRST TIME, GERMAN SOLDIERS THIS TIME ARE ONLY PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE INJUSTICE OF OCCUPATION TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA," GRASS ADDED.

KOHOUT VOICED THE OPINION THAT PEOPLE IN EAST GERMANY WOULD ONE DAY ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT "WHAT WE STARTED IN OUR COUNTRY WAS A SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT AND NOBODY HAS PROVEN SO FAR THAT WE ARE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES," HE SAID.

"FOR US IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO STARTING THIS EXPERIMENT," KOHOUT SAID.

THE PRAGUE WRITER SAID: "WE HAVE TO REMAIN REALISTS AND THEREFORE WE CAN NOT RPT NOT GIVE UP WHAT WE HAVE BEGUN."

KOHOUT SAID HE WAS CONTINUING TO WORK "FOR A NORMAL WORLD, A WORLD NOT DIVIDED INTO BLOCS. WE MUST NEVER GIVE UP HOPE TO SUCCEED."

BG/HE

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