

X/13 C/S - BRENNER WARNS OCCUPATION POWERS

MUNICH, SEP 3 (GND/ZALESKI/MACDONALD)-- OTTO BRENNER, HEAD OF WEST GERMANY'S LARGEST TRADE UNION, TODAY STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES.

AND HE WARNED THE FIVE OCCUPATION POWERS THAT UNTIL THEY CHANGED THEIR POLICY TOWARDS CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE UNION WOULD CONTINUE TO BAN ALL CONTACTS WITH THEM.

BRENNER WAS ADDRESSING THE CONFERENCE OF THE METAL WORKERS UNION (IG METALL), WHICH HAS NEARLY TWO MILLION MEMBERS, IN MUNICH.

THE UNION CHAIRMAN SAID THAT TO ASSIST IN THE SOCIAL LIBERATION OF THE SUPPRESSED PEOPLES WAS THE GREAT DUTY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

"HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS, IS SHOWN NOT LEAST BY THE LATEST EVENTS IN THE CSSR," HE DECLARED. "WITH NAKED FORCE THE SOVIET UNION ATTEMPTED TO AFFIRM ITS CLAIM TO LEADERSHIP AND ITS HEGEMONY IN THE EAST BLOC SYSTEM, WHEREBY ULBRICHT PROVIDED COMPLIANT , SHAMELESS ASSISTANCE."

BRENNER SAID THAT¹NO NOTICE HAD BEEN TAKEN OF THE FACT THAT THEY HAD SUFFOCATED PRECISELY THOSE HOPEFUL TRENDS TOWARDS THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIAL LIFE WHICH LAY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE EMPLOYEE

AND WERE INTENDED TO TURN SOCIALISM FROM A PHRASE INTO REALITY.

"THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS HELPERS HAVE MOREOVER STRUCK A HEAVY BLOW TO THE IDEAS OF PEACEFUL COEXISTANCE AND THE CONTINUAL REMOVAL OF TENSIONS BETWEEN THE POWER BLOCS WILL SOON BE BITTERLY EVIDENT," HE COMMENTED, "NOT LAST THROUGH THE FACT THAT THE PRESENTATIVES OF REACTION AND COLD WAR POLICY ARE RAISING THEIR HEADS AND BREATHING THE MORNING AIR."

(MORE) BG/U/r 1400/68

153