

FRENCH CAMPAIGN FOR REFUGEES BEGINS

PARIS SEPT. 3 (RFE SPECIAL/OVADIA) --- THE FRENCH COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE TUESDAY OPENED A CAMPAIGN CALLED "A SYMBOLIC FRANC FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

THE COMMITTEE, WHICH IS HEADED BY SEVERAL GAULLIST PERSONALITIES, SAID IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT THE CAMPAIGN WAS TO AID CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS STRANDED IN FRANCE AND UNWILLING TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY AT THIS MOMENT.

THE CAMPAIGN AIMS AT COLLECTING FUNDS FOR THOSE CZECHOSLOVAKS IN FRANCE. THE SYMBOLIC FRANC, OR POSSIBLY A HIGHER AMOUNT, CAN BE SENT TO THE COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS FOR RE-DISTRIBUTION AMONG THE STRANDED CZECHOSLOVAKS.

"EVERY DAY," THE COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE SAID, "WE RECEIVE THOUSANDS OF LETTERS FROM FRENCHMEN WANTING TO BRING MATERIAL AID TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKS IN FRANCE." THE "SYMBOLIC FRANC" OPERATION WAS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE FRENCH TO HELP THE CZECHOSLOVAKS.

FOLLOWING THE INVASION BY WARSAW TROOPS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO EASE VISA STIPULATIONS AND REFUGEE LEGISLATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF CZECHOSLOVAKS WANTING TO REMAIN IN FRANCE.

DE GAULLE SPEAKS MONDAY

PARIS, SEPT 3 (RFE SPECIAL /EDWARDS)--- PRESIDENT DE GAULLE MEETS THE PRESS ON MONDAY FOR HIS SEVENTEENTH NEWS CONFERENCE SINCE HE BECAME FRENCH CHIEF OF STATE IN 1959. SOME 800 FRENCH AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS RECEIVED THEIR CARDS OF INVITATION TODAY.

RFE'S PARIS CORRESPONDENT SAYS IT IS NEVER KNOWN IN ADVANCE WHAT SUBJECTS GENERAL DE GAULLE WILL COVER IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, BUT HIS WILL BE THE GENERAL'S FIRST NEWS CONFERENCE SINCE THE MAY CRISIS IN FRANCE AND THE AUGUST INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BOTH ISSUES ARE EXPECTED TO PROMPT QUESTIONS FROM THE JOURNALISTS.

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