

CN 24

X/13 C/S -- CZECHOSLOVAK WRITER IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, SEP 4 (CMD)-- THE CZECHOSLOVAK WRITER ARNOST LUSTIG HAS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL WITH HIS WIFE EVA.

THEY HAD BEEN ON A HOLIDAY IN ITALY, WHEN THEIR COUNTRY WAS INVADED. THE WRITER'S SON IS AT PRESENT IN THE US, ON A STUDENT'S EXCHANGE SCHEME.

MR. LUSTIG LAST VISITED ISRAEL IN FEBRUARY THIS YEAR, WHEN HE INTERVIEWED DEFENSE MINISTER DAYAN.

ASKED BY THE PRESS WHY HE HAD CHOSEN TO COME TO ISRAEL, MR. LUSTIG SAID: "I CONSIDER ISRAEL AS A SHELTER FOR EVERY JEW, WHETHER HE IS A ZIONIST OR NOT. I PREFER ISRAEL TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY, AND I AM INDEED CLOSELY LINKED TO IT. I HAVE BEEN WATCHING ISRAEL DEVELOPMENT, EVER SINCE THE STATE WAS ESTABLISHED AND WATCHED IT GROW LIKE A CHILD."

HE NOTED THAT HE HAD ALSO JUST COMPLETED A BOOK ABOUT ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE WAR "MY LOVE", WHICH IS NOW IN THE PRESS IN PRAGUE. OF COURSE, IT IS HARD TO SAY NOW, WHETHER IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED," HE SAID. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE FUTURE, MR. LUSTIG SAID: "IT IS TOO EARLY TO JUDGE NOW."

MR. LUSTIG SAID THAT HE HAD APPLIED TO THE CZECH EMBASSY IN ROME FOR EXTENSION OF HIS PASSPORTS VALIDITY TO ISRAEL, WHEN THE INVASION TOOK PLACE. "WITHIN TEN MINUTES THEY COMPLETED ALL THE NECESSARY FORMALITIES TO ENABLE ME TO COME HERE LEGALLY," HE SAID.

THE FAMILY HAD BEEN TAKING A HOLIDAY AFTER HE ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL IN ST. SEBASTIAN, WHERE HE RECEIVED A SECOND PRIZE FOR HIS SCREENPLAY OF THE FILM "DIETA SACHS", WHICH DEALS WITH THE NAZI HOLOCAUST.

MR. LUSTIG IS NOW ATTENDING AN "ULPAN" A HEBREW TEACHING CENTER. HE HAS RECEIVED A FLAT IN A HOUSING PROJECT IN HAIFA FOR INTELLECTUALS.

THE WIFE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHOR LADISLAV MNACKO, WHO REMAINED IN ISRAEL WHEN HER HUSBAND RETURNED HOME, SAID TODAY THAT SHE INTENDED FOR THE TIME BEING TO REMAIN HERE, UNTIL MORE WILL BE KNOWN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN HER COUNTRY AND ABOUT HER HUSBAND'S SITUATION.

SHE HAS NO RPT NO RELIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT HER HUSBANDS WHEREABOUTS

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