

CN 68

X/13 BRIT E/W -- BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL SENDS LETTERS OF
"ULTIMATUM" TO WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES

LONDON SEPTEMBER 4--(RFE SPECIAL/TERRY)--THE
BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL HAVE SENT LETTERS
TO THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WHICH INVADED CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA SAYING THAT THE COUNCIL
WILL SEVER ALL LINKS WITH YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THOSE COUNTRIES
UNLESS THEY CONDEMN THE AGGRESSION.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL -- WHICH
COORDINATES THE WORK OF SIX VOLUNTARY YOUTH ORGANISATIONS
IN BRITAIN SAID TODAY:-

"IF WE RECEIVE NO REPLY OR IF THE REPLY SHOULD BE
A NEGATIVE ONE, WE SHALL IMMEDIATELY CUT OFF ALL LINKS
WITH THE COUNTRY CONCERNED."

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY AGREED BY THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE WHICH
IS BASED IN BRUSSELS, HE SAID, AND ALL MEMBER NATIONS
ARE EXPECTED TO SEND SIMILAR LETTERS TO THE FIVE WARSAW
PACT COUNTRIES. IN ADDITION TO THOSE FROM BRITAIN,
LETTERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT FROM THE YOUTH COUNCILS
OF HOLLAND AND SCANDINAVIA.

THE DECISION IMPERILS THE 800 EXCHANGE
VISITS WHICH THE BYC WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT TO
ARRANGE IN THE NEXT YEAR BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE IN BRITAIN
AND RUSSIA, POLAND, HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND EAST
GERMANY.

RUSSIA WOULD BE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO BE AFFECTED
BY THE ULTIMATUM. THE COUNCIL WILL DROP
ADVANCED PLANS FOR 30 EXCHANGE VISITS IN NOVEMBER
UNLESS ITS DEMAND IS HEEDDED.

THE BYC WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN LINKS WITH
YUGOSLAVIA AND WITH RUMANIA, WHICH HAS RECENTLY SHOWN
AN INTEREST IN THE WORK OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO
RETAIN LINKS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA IF IT WAS "SATISFIED"
THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK UNION OF YOUTH WAS THE SAME ONE WITH
WHOM THEY HAD MADE CONTACTS BEFORE.

THREE COUNCIL LEADERS RETURNED TO BRITAIN
ON MONDAY AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO VISIT THE CZECHOSLOVAK
UNION MEMBERS. THEY WERE TURNED BACK AT THE CZECHO-
SLOVAK FRONTIER BY RUSSIAN TROOPS""

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