

X/S - MOSCOW CONFUSED THE TWO HAJEKS (USEFUL)

MUNICH, SEPT 4 (EERA-CZECHOSLOVAK UNIT/CNR) THE SOVIET UNION'S ACCUSATIONS YESTERDAY AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK CONFUSED HIM WITH ANOTHER MAN WITH THE SAME SURNAME, IT WAS LEARNED TODAY.

INFORMED SOURCES REPORT THAT IT IS CLEAR FROM THE SOVIET ALLEGATIONS THAT THE MAN THEY REFER TO IS BEDRICH HAJEK, LAST HEARD OF WORKING IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST ACADEMY, AN INSTITUTE DISSEMINATING POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.

THE SOVIET ATTACK ON JIRI HAJEK SAID THAT HE ASSISTED THE GESTAPO. THIS CHARGE IS UNSUPPORTED EITHER IN HIS CASE OR IN THAT OF BEDRICH HAJEK.

BUT THE SOVIET CLAIM THAT JIRI HAJEK WAS A JEW WHO CHANGED HIS NAME FROM KARPELES IS INCORRECT.

BORN JIRI HAJEK IN 1913 HE IS NOT OF JEWISH ORIGIN.

A PRE-WAR SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, HE WAS HELD IN A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP BETWEEN 1939 AND 1945. HE JOINED THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN 1948 AND LATER ENTERED POLITICS.

BEDRICH HAJEK CHANGED HIS NAME FROM KARPELES AFTER WORLD WAR TWO. AN EXILE IN BRITAIN DURING THE WAR HE MANAGED A CZECHOSLOVAK SOLDIERS CLUB IN LONDON.

AFTER THE WAR HE WORKED AT THE PRAGUE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT AND IN 1949 HE BECAME DEPUTY HEAD OF THE CADRE DEPARTMENT.

ARRESTED IN THE SLANSKY PURGE, HE WAS FORCED TO ACT AS A WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION IN THE SLANSKY TRIAL AND WAS HIMSELF SENTENCED IN JANUARY 1954 TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

RELEASED PROBABLY IN THE LATE 1950'S, HE WAS FORMALLY REHABILITATED IN AUG 1963. LATER HE WAS GIVEN A POST IN THE SOCIALIST ACADEMY.