

X/13 C/S - COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONDEMNS SOVIET AGGRESSION

ROME, SEPT. 4.--(RFE SPECIAL/ROBERTIELLO).--THE 18-NATION COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONDEMNED TODAY THE CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION AS "A FLAGRANT BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW."

THE CONDEMNATION WAS VOICED IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER A THREE-DAY MEETING IN ROME OF THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ON NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BELGIAN SENATE, PAUL STRUYE, PRESIDED AT THE MEETING OF THESE TWO BODIES OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH HAS 18 MEMBER-NATIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT FOREIGN ARMED FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN TO "ENABLE THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE TO TAKE IN HAND ITS OWN DESTINY."

IT SAID THE MEETING "CONDEMNED THE PRESSURES" THE SOVIET UNION HAD EXERTED TO SUPPRESS FREEDOM OF OPINION AND TO RESTORE CENSORSHIP.

THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES, THE COMMUNIQUE SAID, "WERE CONVINCED THAT A LASTING PIECE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST... IS ONLY CONCEIVABLE IN THE FUTURE IF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION."

AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY IN ROME SENATOR STRUYE SAID THE PRESENT MEETING PROPOSED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL, SCHEDULED FOR STRASBOURG ON SEPT. 23.

HE SAID THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION HAD DEALT "A VERY HARD BLOW" TO THE WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS POLICY AIMING AT AN EAST-WEST DETENTE.