

X/13 EURO - CGIL CALLS MEETINGS ON CSSR, RAPS SOVIETS (WITH CN 207

SEPT. 3)

ROME, SEPT. 4 -- (RFE SPECIAL/ TEMPEST) - ITALYS COMMUNIST - DOMINATED CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CGIL) HAS CALLED FOR MEETINGS OF EAST AND WEST EUROPEAN UNIONS TO DISCUSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WHILE THE SOCIALIST - DOMINATED ITALIAN WORKERS UNION (UIL) HAS CANCELLED THE VISIT TO ITALY OF A GROUP OF SOVIET UNION LEADERS.

IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED YESTERDAY, THE CGIL -- WHICH STRONGLY PROTESTED THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA CALLING IT "INADMISSIBLE" -- SAID IT PLANNED TO MEET WITH VARIOUS EAST AND WEST EUROPEAN UNIONS, "AND PARTICULARLY CZECHOSLOVAK UNIONS", TO DISCUSS THE EUROPEAN SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON UNIONS.

IN A STRONG LETTER TO THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF UNIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION, THE UIL ASKED THE SUSPENSION OF A VISIT BY SOVIET UNION LEADERS TO ITALY PLANNED FOR SEPT. 25.

THE LETTER RECALLS A FORMER LETTER OF AUG. 22 WHEN UIL CALLED UPON SOVIET UNIONS TO INTERVENE "TO STOP A FOOLISH MOVE THAT IS DESTROYING YEARS OF EFFORTS TOWARDS MUTUAL COMPREHENSION AND PEACE".

"YOUR REPLY", SAID THE LETTER, "HAS NOT YET REACHED US BUT FROM THE FACTS IT APPEARS THAT THE POWER IN MOSCOW IS STILL STRONGLY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE COMMITTED THIS IGNOBLE AGGRESSION".

IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE FAITH IN THE WORD OF THE CURRENT LEADERS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY.

"....WE HAVE THUS DECIDED TO SUSPEND THE MEETING PLANNED BETWEEN YOU AND US. WE ARE NOT ABLE, IN FACT, TO SEE AT THE MOMENT WHAT POSITIVE THING WE COULD CONSTRUCT TOGETHER. RF/HI 1630/68 H