

X/13 EURO -- NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS NOT AGREED ON CSSR

STOCKHOLM, SEPT 4 -- (RFE SPECIAL/HENRY) -- THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONCLUDED THEIR ANNUAL AUTUMN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TODAY BY AGREEING THEY DID NOT AGREE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

THEIR COMMUNIQUE SAID THE MINISTERS FROM FINLAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK AND ICELAND HAD A "PENETRATING" DISCUSSION ON THE "TRAGIC EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA", AND THAT EACH MINISTER REFERRED BACK TO HIS GOVERNMENTS STATEMENTS ON THE MATTER.

AT A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE, NORWAYS JOHN LYG SAID THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD BROUGHT ABOUT "A CERTAIN INCREASE IN THE EASTERN EUROPEAN POTENTIAL... THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE MILITARY SITUATION AND IN THE BALANCE."

HOWEVER, DENMARK'S POUL HARTLING SAID IT WAS "TOO EARLY TO DRAW A DEFINITE CONCLUSION" .

SWEDENS TORSTEN NILSSON SAID: "THERE ARE MANY DIFFERING VIEWS, BUT I DO NOT THINK THIS HAS DISTURBED THE BALANCE OF POWER."

FINLANDS AHTI KARJALAINEN REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON THE MILITARY ASPECT OF THE OCCUPATION, AND ICELANDS EMIL JONSSON DID NOT SPEAK AT ALL.

BOTH DENMARK AND SWEDEN SAID THEY INTENDED TO CONTINUE EASTERN EUROPEAN CONTACTS AS HARTLING PUT IT, "WITH A VIEW TO CONTRIBUTING TO RELAXATION," OR, IN NILSSONS WORDS: IN ORDER TO "BALANCE OUT THE POINTS OF CONTENTION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST."

KARJALAINEN SAID FINLANDS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD CONTINUE "AS USUAL."

"THE EVENTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEED NOT WORK CATASTROPHICALLY AGAINST THE MANY YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL WORK TOWARD RELAXATION OF TENSIONS," HE SAID.

(MORE)

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