

CN 167

X/13 CS --- FRENCH DEPUTIES: "MAINTAIN MILITARY SPENDING "

PARIS, SEPT 4 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS)--- THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMISSION OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SAID TODAY THAT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN FRENCH MILITARY STRENGTH.

THE COMMISSION CONTAINS A MAJORITY OF GAULLIST DEPUTIES. ITS PRESIDENT IS THE FORMER GAULLIST MINISTER, ALEXANDRE SANGUINETTI.

IN A COMMUNIQUE AFTER A PARIS MEETING TODAY, THE COMMISSION PAID TRIBUTE TO THE "BRILLIANT SUCCESS" MARKED BY THE RECENT FRENCH THERMONUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN THE PACIFIC, BUT AT THE SAME TIME EXPRESSED "CONCERN FOLLOWING THE CZECHOSLOVAK DRAMA AND ITS POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONSEQUENCES".

THE EAST EUROPEAN CRISIS, SAID THE COMMUNIQUE, "SHOWS ONCE AGAIN THE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF ARMS, MEN AND MONEY" DEVOTED TO THE FRENCH DEFENSE SYSTEM.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION AGAIN CONSUMED THE MAJOR PART OF THE REPORT TO THE FRENCH CABINET THIS MORNING BY FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL DEBRE. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION MINISTER JOEL LE THEULE, DEBRE REPORTED TO HIS COLLEAGUES ON HIS MEETING MONDAY WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALERIAN ZORIN. AT THAT MEETING, ZORIN HAD TOLD DEBRE THAT ALL FEARS OF A SOVIET INVASION OF RUMANIAN WERE "UNFOUNDED".

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