

CN 63

X/13 CURT -- HERMANSSON LESS OPTIMISTIC, ANOTHER CP MEMBER QUILTS

STOCKHOLM, SEPT 5 -- (RFE SPECIAL/HENRY) -- SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER CARL-HENRIK HERMANSSON SAID TODAY HE IS NOT AS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A GOOD ELECTION RESULT HERE SEPT. 15 AS HE WAS BEFORE THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE LIBERAL MORNINGER DAGENS NYHETER, HERMANSSON SAID "VOTERS WHO SAY THEY EARLIER SUPPORTED OTHER PARTIES ARE CALLING OR WRITING ME DAILY TO SAY THEY WILL NOW VOTE FOR US. BUT I AM NOT AS CERTAIN OF AN ELECTION TRIUMPH NOW AS I WAS BEFORE THE INVASION."

HERMANSSON SAID THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA "HAS SHAKEN THE PARTY". HE REPEATED THAT HE "NEVER BELIEVED IT WOULD GO SO FAR AS A MILITARY ACTION."

HERMANSSON DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE PARTY WAS SHAKEN UP, NOR PRECISELY HOW LESS OPTIMISTIC HE IS OF A GOOD ELECTION RESULT.

HOWEVER, ONE OF HERMANSSONS BIG SUPPORTERS IN STOCKHOLM FORMER OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY SPOKESMAN ROLF UTBERG, TODAY HANDED IN HIS RESIGNATION AND SAID HE WAS GOING TO VOTE FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AT THE ELECTION THIS MONTH.

UTBERG, A PARTY MEMBER SINCE 1949 AND FORMERLY A LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH, IS A STOCKHOLM CITY COUNCIL MEMBER AND HAS BEEN LEADING COMMUNIST FOR YEARS IN THE CAPITAL AREA.

BUT HE SAID THIS MORNING IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THAT "HERMANSSON HAS COME AROUND TO STEERING AN EVER-MORE EXTREME LEFTIST COURSE". UTBERG SAID HE WAS QUITTING THE CP IN ORDER TO "STOP THE DIVISION WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT" BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE CP AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS COMPETING FOR LABOR VOTES.

UTBERG SAID "HERMANSSON HAS INTRODUCED A SHARPENING (OF THE RIFT) WITHIN THE WORKER MOVEMENT WHICH CAN TURN POWER OVER TO THE BOURGEOISE PARTIES. THIS COULD BE FATEFUL."

UTBERG IS THE THIRD CP MEMBER TO QUIT THE PARTY THIS WEEK. ONE IN NORTHERN SWEDEN QUIT BECAUSE HERMANSSON WAS "TOO MODERATE". THE OTHER, IN CENTRAL SWEDEN, QUIT BECAUSE THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MADE IT "IMPOSSIBLE" FOR HIM TO REMAIN A COMMUNIST.

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