

CN 75

X/13 E/W -MINSK OFFICIALS TOLD TO POSTPONE VISIT

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 5 (RFE SPECIAL/HOOD) - LEADERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AT NOTTINGHAM, IN CENTRAL ENGLAND, TOLD OFFICIALS OF THE RUSSIAN CITY OF MINSK LAST NIGHT TO DEFER THE WEEKLONG VISIT DUE TO HAVE BEGUN OCTOBER 14, BECAUSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

THE FOUR OFFICIALS WERE TO HAVE VISITED NOTTINGHAM IN THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE CITIES.

IN MANCHESTER THE CITY COUNCIL DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO END ITS FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH LENINGRAD, BUT ADOPTED AN AMENDMENT INSTRUCTING THE LORD MAYOR TO INFORM THE "TWIN CITY" THAT MANCHESTER CONDEMNS THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE AMENDMENT SAID THE RUSSIAN ACTION WAS INCOMPATIBLE WITH FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS AND HAD CREATED A SITUATION THAT MIGHT LEAD TO THE ENDING OF AGREEMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CITIES.

IN MOVING THE MOTION TO END THE AGREEMENT, ALDERMAN SIR LIONEL BIGGS SAID THAT, LIKE THE LEOPARD, THE RUSSIANS HAD NOT RPT NOT CHANGED THEIR SPOTS AND WERE JUST AS RUTHLESS, AS MURDEROUS AND AS CYNICAL AS THEY WERE IN THEP PAST.

ALDERMAN SIR ROBERT THOMAS, LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP, OPPOSING THE MOTION, SAID THAT IF THE WEST WANTS LIBERALIZATION TO TAKE PLACE IN THE EAST, THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION MUST BE KEPT OPEN.

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