

X/13 CS --- DEBRE SAYS SELFDETERMINATION ESSENTIAL

PARIS, SEPT 5 ( RFE SPECIAL/ EDWARDS) --- FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL DEBRE SAID TODAY THAT RESPECT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION WAS AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE. THE FORMER PREMIER WAS SPEAKING AT STRASBOURG WHERE THIS MORNING HE INAUGURATED THE ANNUAL TRADE FAIR.

"NOT TO RESPECT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH STATE IN RELATION TO THE OTHERS IS TO ACCEPT THAT THE MOST POWERFUL STATE ASSERTS ITS HEGEMONY AND DIRECTLY THREATENS THE SACRED RIGHTS OF THE HUMAN PERSON," DEBRE SAID.

"THE FIRST GUARANTEE OF INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS IS THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE POLITICAL SOCIETY FORMED BY ALL THE CITIZENS, EQUAL IN RIGHTS AND IN VOLUNTARY SOLIDARITY."

DEBRE SAID THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES COULD LEAD TO CONFLICTS "THROUGHOUT A REFUSAL OF DISCIPLINES INDISPENSABLE TO THE PEACEFUL LIFE OF NATIONS". BUT THE "WISE" PATH WAS TO ASSERT THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADVOCATING RESPECT FOR RULES ENACTED IN COMMON TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF THE NECESSARY COOPERATION.

THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS "A GRAVE EVENT WHICH HAS SHAKEN THE WHOLE OF EUROPE", THE MINISTER SAID. HE CRITICIZED THE POLICY OF BLOCS WHICH "PREVENTS ALL CHANCE OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF COMMON PROBLEMS AND AUTHORIZES THE HEGEMONY OF THE MOST POWERFUL".

DEBRE CONCLUDED : " THE ROAD OF DETENTE AND COOPERATION, INDISPENSABLE TO ASSURE UNDERSTANDING AMONG PEOPLES, ESPECIALY ON OUR OLD CONTINENT, PASSES UNAVOIDABLY THROUGH THE RIGHT OF EACH PEOPLE TO DECIDE ITS OWN DESTINY ...

"CONTEMPT FOR THIS GREAT RULE LEADS TO REVOLT AND WAR".