

CN 82

X/13 C/S -- VOLKSSTIME DEFENDS ITS CONDEMNATION OF IZVESTIA

VIENNA, SEP 5 (RFE SPECIAL/CNR)-- THE OFFICIAL AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, VOLKSSTIME, TODAY DEFENDED THE STRONG CRITICISM WHICH IT PUBLISHED YESTERDAY OF THE ATTACK IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. JIRI HAJEK.

VOLKSSTIMME SAID THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A NUMBER OF LETTERS EXPRESSING DISAGREEMENT WITH ITS ARTICLE.

SOME OF THE READERS SAID THAT VOLKSSTIMME SHOULD HAVE USED A Milder TONE AGAINST THE SOVIET PAPER.

VOLKSSTIMME ACCEPTED THE READERS' REPROACHES, BUT ADDED THAT IZVESTIA SHOULD NOT RPT NOT USE A TYPE OF WRITING THAT ENDANGERS THE PRESTIGE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OF COMMUNISM IN GENERAL.

VOLKSSTIMME ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT "INFORMED SOURCES" HAD REPORTED THAT IZVESTIA'S ACCUSATION THAT HAJEK HAD CHANGED HIS NAME FROM KARPELES WAS NOT RPT NOT THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER, VOLKSSTIMME SAID. HE WAS , IN FACT, A VICTIM OF THE SLANSKY TRIAL, AND IZVESTIA'S ACCUSATIONS WERE NOT RPT NOT APPLICABLE TO HIM, VOLKSSTIMME SAID.

THE SAME ISSUE OF VOLKSSTIMME CARRIED AN EXTENSIVE REPORT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNDER THE HEADING: PEOPLE'S DISCIPLINE A PROOF OF PARTY AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. THE REPORT MENTIONED THE VISIT BY PRESIDENT SVOBODA AND PREMIER CERNIK TO A FACTORY, THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM PRAGUE RADIO AND THE PRAGUE OFFICE OF CETEKA AND OTA SIK'S DISMISSAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

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