

X/13 W. GER - BRANDT CONDEMNS EAST BERLIN ROLE IN CS OCCUPATION

MUNICH, SEPTEMBER 5 (GND/ZALESKI/HWG)- WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER WILLY BRANDT SAID IN MUNICH TODAY THAT "THE GERMAN PEOPLE HAS TO BE ASHAMED OF THE FACT THAT EAST GERMAN SOLDIERS WERE FORCED BY THE REGIME OF (EAST GERMAN PARTY LEADER) WALTER ULBRICHT TO TAKE PART IN THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

BRANDT, ADDRESSING THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE WEST GERMAN METAL WORKERS UNION (IG METALL) IN MUNICH ADDED THAT "THE PARTICIPATION OF EAST GERMANY IN THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS IN STRICT CONTRAST TO THE POTSDAM AGREEMENT OF 1945."

BRANDT SAID THAT THE "INTERVENTION OF THE SOVIET UNION CAN BE UNDERSTOOD ONLY AS A SIGN OF ANXIETY, OF FEAR OF FREEDOM WHICH IS ENDANGERING TOTALITARIAN REGIMES."

THE WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERLINED THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WOULD "NOT RPT NOT TOLERATE ANY INTERFERENCE IN THE FORMULATION OF HER POLICIES EVEN IF IT IS BASED ON THE SOCALLED ENEMY CLAUSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER."

"WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR POLICY OF COOPERATION WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES", HE ADDED.

THE METAL WORKERS UNION DELEGATES WERE ALSO ADDRESSED BY OTTO BRENNER, FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE IG METALL, WHO STRESSED THAT "OUR SYMPATHY AND SOLIDARITY BELONGS TO THE WORKERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

HE ADDED THAT THE INTERVENTION OF THE SOVIET UNION "HAS MADE IT QUITE CLEAR AGAIN HOW OUTDATED POWER POLICY IS" ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD.

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