

CN 100

X/13 W GER -- SCHROEDER: SOVIETS SUFFERED LOSS OF POLITICAL, MORAL  
TRUST

BONN, SEPT 6 ( RFE SPECIAL/MARSH ) -- WEST GERMAN DEFENSE  
MINISTER GERHARD SCHROEDER SAID TODAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION  
SUFFERED A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF POLITICAL AND MORAL TRUST WHEN  
IT INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN A SPEECH DELIVERED AT A BUNDESWEHR CASERN IN HILDEN THE  
DEFENSE MINISTER SAID, "IT IS OBVIOUS THAT COMMUNISM CANNOT  
ENDURE COEXISTENCE WITH FREEDOM."

HE SAID THAT MOSCOWS ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM ITS  
INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SLANDERING THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
AND OTHER WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE.

HE WENT ON: "BUT WITH DETERMINATION AND PERSEVERANCE WE WANT  
TO DO THAT WHICH IS NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE PEACE AND OUR SECURITY.  
FOR THIS WE NEED NO BIG WORDS, BUT RATHER CONSISTENT ACTION."

MR. SCHROEDER SAID, "A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS  
THAT REMAIN TO BE SOLVED IN EUROPE CAN ONLY COME ABOUT IF THE  
PEOPLES, WORKING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR OWN ELECTED FORMS  
OF GOVERNMENT, SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT, MAKE THEIR OWN  
DECISIONS ON QUESTIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM."

"WE SEE TODAY THAT COMMUNISM VERY OBVIOUSLY IS IN A CRISIS  
STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND THE OUTCOME IS NOT YET APPARENT,"  
THE MINISTER SAID.

HE SAID, "THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, WITH ITS INTERVENTION IN  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS SUFFERED A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF POLITICAL AND  
MORAL TRUST, AND THE EXTENT OF THIS LOSS TO THIS HOUR CANNOT  
BE OVERLOOKED."

BG/LA 1630/68

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