

CN 102

X-13/ CS --- JAN PILLER PRESENTS HIS VERSION OF AUGUST DAYS

(AMPLIFIES CN 41, SEPT 5)

PARIS SEPT. 6 (RFE SPECIAL/OVADIA) --- CENTRAL BOHEMIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER JAN PILLER HAS SAID HE PLEADED WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY HEAD ALEXANDER DUBCEK AND OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 22ND, THE DAY AFTER THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

PILLER DESCRIBED THE CRITICAL DAYS OF AUGUST 21 AND 22, IN AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED THURSDAY IN THE BOHEMIAN PAPER SVOBODA.

HIS ARTICLE WAS QUOTED TODAY BY THE PRAGUE CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRENCH PARTY DAILY L'HUMANITE.

HE SAID HE HAD HAD "A LONG AND DIFFICULT DISCUSSION" AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN PRAGUE ABOUT THE LIBERATION OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

"DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, WE WERE UNABLE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH MOSCOW", PILLER SAID.

PILLER SAID HE ARRIVED AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE PRAHA HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, AT ABOUT HALF PAST FIVE.

"WHEN I ARRIVED, SOME 30 OR 40 COMRADES WERE ALREADY THERE. THEIR NUMBER WAS TO GROW TO ABOUT 50 SOME TIME LATER. I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE REUNION OF THE PRESIDUM WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE EVE. I TOLD THEM HOW ARE LEADERS LEARNED ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS ON OUR TERRITORY AND HOW THEY WERE ARRESTED".

(MORE) BG/LA 1640/68

RF

41