

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD PILLER PRESENTS HIS VERSION (CN 102) X X X ARRESTED.
PILLER SAID THAT A GROUP OF COMRADES DECIDED TO

DISCUSS THE IMMEDIATE LIBERATION OF DUBCEK, SMRKOVSKY, CERNIK, SPACEK, KRIEGEL AND SIMON WITH THE "REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FOREIGN TROOPS".

"ON THURSDAY THE 22ND, IN THE MORNING", PILLER WROTE IN SVOBODA, "THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESIDUM AND THE SECRETARIAT, HELD A COMMON MEETING. WE WERE GIVEN INFORMATION BY COMRADES WHO HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE TROOP COMMANDERS. THEY WERE NOT AT ALL REASSURING. WE THEN TOOK THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

"1. UNTIL THE RETURN OF COMRADE DUBCEK, JAN PILLER WAS TO HEAD THE PRESIDUM AND SECRETARIAT.

"2. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM AND THE SECRETARIAT WHO WERE PRESENT AGREED TO DEMAND THE LIBERATION OF THEIR JAILED COMRADES SO THAT THEY COULD RESUME THEIR FUNCTIONS."

PILLER SAID THAT NOBODY THEN KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE JAILED PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS. IT WAS THEREFORE DECIDED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

"THE COMRADES PICKED ME AS THEIR SPEAKER", HE SAID .

"AT THE EMBASSY, THE DISCUSSION WAS LONG AND DIFFICULT. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, WE WERE UNABLE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH MOSCOW. WE UNDERSTOOD THAT MEASURES HAD TO BE TAKEN. THIS IS WHY WE WENT TO SEE PRESIDENT SVOBODA AT THE CASTLE WE DECIDED TOGETHER WITH HIM THAT IT WAS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO REMAIN IN THE EXPECTATION AND WE AGREED THAT A DELEGATION, HEADED BY COMRADE SVOBODA SHOULD LEAVE FOR MOSCOW THE FOLLOWING DAY, THAT IS FRIDAY MORNING, FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES.

"AT THAT MOMENT, OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE WAS TO NEGOTIATE THE LIBERATION OF OUR COMRADES OF WHOM WE WERE WITHOUT ANY NEWS".

PILLER ALSO SAID HE REGRETTED HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO ATTEND THE 14TH CONGRESS, HELD SECRETELY ON AUGUST 23RD, "TO EXPLAIN MY POINT OF VIEW". BG/LA 1650/68 SEPT 6 H

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