

CN 111

X/13 CURT -- WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONISTS TO DISCUSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRUSSELS, SEPT 6 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- TOP WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS MEET HERE SATURDAY AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) TO DISCUSS THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

AN ICFTU SPOKESMAN TODAY SAID THE MEETING HAD BEEN SPECIALLY CALLED "TO DISCUSS ALL THE ISSUES ARISING FROM CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE SOVIET AND SATELLITE FORCES."

BRUNO STORTI, OF ITALY, THE ICFTU PRESIDENT, AND FRED HAYDAY, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BRITISH TUC AND CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE ICFTU, WILL CO-CHAIR THE MEETING.

HARM G. BUITER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ICFTU, WILL ALSO ADDRESS THE MEETING WHICH OPENS AT 1000 MT.

TRADE UNION LEADERS FROM BELGIUM, FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, ITALY, HOLLAND, SWITZERLAND, WEST GERMANY, SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA WILL ATTEND, ACCORDING TO THE ICFTU SPOKESMAN. OFFICIALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SECRETARIAT, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSPORT, POSTAL, CLERICAL, AND FOOD INDUSTRY WORKERS ORGANISATIONS WILL ATTEND AS WILL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION SECRETARIAT AND THE EFTA TRADE UNION SECRETARIAT.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE TRADE UNION LEADERS WOULD CALL FOR ANY BOYCOTT OF TRADE WITH THE OCCUPYING POWERS, BUT HE SAID IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THEY WOULD, IN ADDITION TO CONDEMNING THE OCCUPATION, APPROVE ACTION PROGRAMS AIMED AT AIDING CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES.

HE SAID THAT FREE TRADE UNION LEADERS OF ASIA, AFRICA AND THE AMERICAS HAD ALSO BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND, BUT BECAUSE OF THE SHORT NOTICE -- PLANS TO HOLD THE MEETING WERE ANNOUNCED ONLY LAST WEEK -- MOST WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND. HE SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT A DELEGATION OF TUNISIAN TRADE UNIONISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM VENEZUELA WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

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