

X/4 CS - ACCUSATIONS OVER SOVIET TRAFFIC DELAYS

MUNICH, SEPT 6 (CMD)- THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS TONIGHT BLAMED CZECHOSLOVAK LOCAL AGENCIES FOR "DELIBERATELY" DELAYING CARGOES FROM THE USSR WHILE A SLOVAK RADIO STATION ACCUSED SOVIET RAILWAYMEN OF ~~REFUSING~~ TO ACCEPT LOADED FREIGHT CARS AT THE SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER.

THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS SAID "ASSERTIONS HAVE OF LATE APPEARED IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE OSTRAVA STEEL MILLS ARE NOT RPT NOT WORKING AT FULL CAPACITY AS A RESULT OF ALLEGED RESTRICTIONS IN THE DELIVERIES OF IRON ORE, NATURAL GAS AND COKING COAL FROM THE USSR.

"COMPETENT SOVIET ORGANS REPORT THAT SUCH ASSERTIONS ARE GROUNDLESS AND MISLEAD PUBLIC OPINION. THE SOVIET FOREIGN-TRADING ORGANISATIONS ARE SCRUPULOUSLY DISCHARGING ALL THEIR COMMITMENTS FLOWING FROM THE AGREEMENT ON TRADE FOR 1968," TASS SAID.

TASS THEN QUOTED VARIOUS FIGURES ON SOVIET DELIVERIES OF NAUTRAL GAS AND ELECTRICITY, AND SAID LOADING OF IRON ORE, OIL, COAL, GRAIN AND OTHER COMMODITIES FOR THE CSSR HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUSPENDED FOR A SINGLE DAY.

TASS SAID A "NUMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAK LOCAL AGENCIES AND PERSONS DELIBERATELY DELAYED AND IN SOME CASES WRECKED ACCEPTANCE OF CARGOES FROM THE USSR WITH THE OBJECT OF CREATING DIFFICULTIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THEN SPECULATING ABOUT THEM FOR PURPOSES HOSTILE TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES."

(MORE) LD/L - 1940/68 M