

E/W -- U.S. CANCELS CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH POLAND

WASHINGTON, SEPT 7 (UPI)-THE UNITED STATES FORCED THE CANCELLATION OF SEVERAL EXCHANGES OF PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS WITH POLAND FRIDAY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DISPLEASURE WITH WARSAW'S SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET BLOC INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AT THE SAME TIME, ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICER, SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS CONTINUING TO NEGOTIATE A CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH RUMANIA.

THE U.S. CUTBACKS INVOLVING POLAND SEVERED ALL CULTURAL EXCHANGE TIES BETWEEN AMERICA AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES EXCEPT ROMANIA, ALTHOUGH SOME TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS STILL WERE OPERATING.

IT FOLLOWED THURSDAY'S CANCELLATION OF A SEVEN-WEEK VISIT TO 11 SOVIET CITIES BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SYMPHONIC BAND AND A REQUEST TO MOSCOW TO POSTPONE A SECOND INAUGURAL FLIGHT OF THE SOVIET AIRLINE AEROFLOT FROM MOSCOW TO NEW YORK.

MCCLOSKEY POINTED OUT THAT NO CULTURAL EXCHANGES HAD BEEN SCHEDULED WITH HUNGARY AND BULGARIA, BOTH OF WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE INVASION, SO NONE COULD BE CANCELLED.

BUT HE SAID CUTBACKS OF EXCHANGES OF SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL, AGRICULTURAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHER EXPERTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

THE EXCHANGES WITH POLAND WERE COMMERCIALY ARRANGED. TO BLOCK THEM, THE STATE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO REFUSE VISAS TO THE POLISH PERFORMERS AND ADVISED THE AMERICAN PERFORMERS SCHEDULED TO GO TO POLAND THAT IT WAS NOT "IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AT THIS TIME" TO MAKE THE TRIP. MCCLOSKEY SAID HE FELT THE ADVICE WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

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