

CN 38

C/S - 1200 INTRO - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

PRAGUE, SEPT 7, REUTER - THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY PRESIDIUM IS READY FOR NEW TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION TOWARDS ENDING THE 17-DAY OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY, A COMMUNIQUE IN THE PARTY NEWSPAPER RUDE PRAVO SAID TODAY.

THE COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED AFTER LAST NIGHTS MEETING OF THE PRESIDIUM UNDER PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK, SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO OPEN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS TO FULFIL THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT WHICH FOLLOWED THE INVASION BY WARSAW PACT FORCES.

"CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR CONCRETE AND RESPONSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS BY EMPOWERED DELEGATES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT," THE COMMUNIQUE SAID.

THE PRESIDIUM MEETING CAME AS SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VASILY KUZNETSOV - A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - VISITED PRAGUE FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA.

THE PRESIDIUM COMMUNIQUE SAID "ALL OBSTACLES TO NORMALISATION HAD TO BE REMOVED."

PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK IN A SPEECH TO THE NATIONAL FRONT YESTERDAY SAID "NOT TODAY BUT TOMORROW MORE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS WILL BE CREATED FOR THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ACTION PROGRAMME AND THE FURTHER CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM...."

(MORE) RF/A 1130/68 