

X-13/CS --- PARIS PROTESTS AGAINST RED ARMY PERFORMANCE

PARIS SEPT. 7 (RFE SPECIAL/OVADIA) --- THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET ARMY CHOIR AND BALLET IN A FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY CELEBRATION IN PARIS THIS WEEK-END, HAS BEEN DENOUNCED AS "TACTLESS AND INDECENT".

THE SOVIET ARMY ARTISTIC TROUPE IS SCHEDULED TO PERFORM THIS AFTERNOON AT THE ANNUAL GALA ORGANIZED BY THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY L'HUMANITE.

THE GAULLIST DEPUTY, PIERRE MARCUS, MEMBER OF THE PARIS CITY COUNCIL, YESTERDAY PUBLICLY QUERIED THE POLICE PREFECT ABOUT THE ANNOUNCED PERFORMANCE WHICH, "APART FROM ITS INDECENT ASPECT AT THE VERY TIME WHEN THE SOVIET ARMY CRUSHES A PEOPLE WHICH IS A FRIEND OF FRANCE, MIGHT TROUBLE PUBLIC ORDER".

ANOTHER PROTEST WAS FILED SATURDAY BY THE PARIS COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, WHICH SAID IT COULD "NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THE ARRIVAL ... OF THE CHOIRS OF AN ARMY THAT INVADDED AND CURRENTLY OCCUPIES CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE PRESENCE IN PARIS OF RED ARMY MEMBERS AT THIS TIME IS "AN EVIDENT TACTLESSNESS, TO SAY NO MORE", ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE.

THE COMMITTEE SAID IT WAS "UNTHINKABLE TO CONDEMN THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS L'HUMANITE HAS DONE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, INVITE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THAT ARMY TO A POPULAR GALA".

"THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE EXPRESSES ITS INDIGNATION BEFORE SUCH DUPLICITY AND APPEALS TO ALL FRENCHMEN ATTACHED TO FREEDOM TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR REPROBATION THROUGH ABSTAINING FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE L'HUMANITE GALA, THUS INDICATING THEIR FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

THE L'HUMANITE GALA TRADITIONALLY FEATURES FRENCH ARTISTS WITHOUT ANY AFFILIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

THE PAPER ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT MANY REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 31 FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES INVITED HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED. AMONG THEM WERE K. PRACEK, A RUDE PRAVO EDITOR AND A. GHEORGHIU FROM THE RUMANIAN PARTY PAPER SCINTEIA. ALSO PRESENT IN PARIS ARE TWO NEPSZABADSAG REPRESENTATIVES, F. CSOLLANY, THE DIRECTOR, AND F. VARNAI WHO HEADS THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE HUNGARIAN DAILY.

ACCORDING TO A HUGE ADVERTISEMENT IN L'HUMANITE TODAY, THE SOVIET ARMY CHOIRS AND DANCERS ARE DUE TO PERFORM SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

ASB/A 1437/68

21

8