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C/S - HEALTH OFFICIAL WARNS OF POTENTIAL EPIDEMIC

PRAGUE, SEPT 8 (CNR/UPI) - A CZECHOSLOVAK HEALTH OFFICIAL HAS WARNED OF A POTENTIAL EPIDEMIC SITUATION DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN ARMIES IN THE COUNTRY.

DR VILEM SKOVRANEK, CHIEF HYGIENIST OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER RUDE PRAVO THAT OUTBREAKS OF DYSENTERY HAVE ALREADY APPEARED IN SOME RURAL HOP-GROWING DISTRICTS.

HE DENIED REPORTS OF MASSIVE TYPHOID OUTBREAKS BUT SAID "THE SITUATION IS SO EXCEPTIONAL THAT NOBODY IS ABLE TO RESPONSIBLY FORESEE POSSIBLE CHANGES."

DR SKOVRANEKS REPORT IN RUDE PRAVO SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A LETTER, VIA THE HEALTH MINISTRY, TO THE SOVIET MILITARY COMMANDER.

IT CONTAINED "BASIC HYGIENE DEMANDS...AND SERVED NOTICE OF A POTENTIAL EPIDEMIC SITUATION DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN ARMIES.

"UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED AN ANSWER. BUT IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE THAT I DO SO, BECAUSE THE FOREIGN ARMIES ARE MORE INTENSIVELY AND CONTINUOUSLY TRYING TO DEVELOP TIES WITH OUR CITIZENS.

"ADD TO THIS THE FACT THAT SOME ARMY UNITS ARE BIVOUACKED IN PROTECTED ZONES OF WATER SUPPLY.

"THE COMMAND OF THE ARMIES HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT IT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PUT A STOP TO THIS SITUATION."

(MORE) BG/LA 1827/68

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