

CN 3

X/4 CS - CS CAPABLE ALONE OF SECURING ORDER, PELNAR SAYS

MUNICH, SEPT 10 (CMD)- CZECHOSLOVAK NEWLY APPOINTED INTERIOR MINISTER JAN PELNAR TOLD A RADIO PRAGUE AUDIENCE LAST NIGHT THAT CZECHOSLOVAK BODIES ALONE WERE CAPABLE OF SECURING CALM AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY, AND THUS "PROVE TO THE TROOPS OF THE WARSAW PACT THAT IT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE NECESSARY THAT THEY SHOULD INTERFERE WITH OUR AFFAIRS."

PELNAR SAID IN A RECORDED INTERVIEW WITH RADIO PRAGUE'S EDITOR VACLAV KLEMENT THAT HE WAS TAKING UP HIS POST "WITH REALLY MIXED FEELINGS."

HE SAID HE HAD NEVER BEEN USED TO WORK IN CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS, AND ADDED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN "CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE."

PELNAR SAID FURTHER THAT HE WAS ASSUMING HIS FUNCTION IN "A VERY COMPLEX SITUATION FOR THE WHOLE STATE, AND, UNDERSTANDABLY, IN A VERY COMPLEX SITUATION ALSO INSIDE THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR ITSELF, EVEN THOUGH IT CAN BE SEEN THAT OUR SECTIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR SINCE AUG. 21 AND ALSO SECTIONS OF STATE SECURITY AND PUBLIC SECURITY HAVE GAINED GREAT CONFIDENCE OF OUR CITIZENS."

PELNAR NOTED THAT "NO RPT NO ARRESTS HAVE OCCURRED" IN THE COUNTRY AFTER THE INVASION.

PELNAR ALSO STRESSED THE "SAFEGUARDING OF THE SOCIALIST LEGALITY, WHICH MEANS THE SAGEGUARDING OF THE LEGAL CERTAINTY OF ALL CITIZENS."

HE ADDED THAT WAS ANYONE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE AGAINST THE STATE OR OF A CRIME MUST BE PROSECUTED IN ACCORDANCE OF THE "VALID LAWS WE HAVE."

PELNAR SAID HE BELIEVED THAT "THE MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT WILL BELIEVE US THAT WE ARE REALLY ABLE TO RULE OURSELVES."

(MORE) JH/MBW/L 0032/68 /K