

CN 44:

X/4 C/S -- PRACA: KUZNETSOV VISIT EVOKES HOPE

MUNICH, SEPT 10 (CMD) -- THE SLOVAK TRADE UNION DAILY PRACA SAID TODAY THE VISIT OF SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VASILI KUZNETSOV IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA "CAN EVOKE HOPE IN SOME RESPECTS."

ACCORDING TO RADIO BRATISLAVA, PRACA WROTE THAT KUZNETSOV ARRIVED IN PRAGUE AND BRATISLAVA AT THE REQUEST OF "OUR HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVES."


PRACA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING:

"SO FAR WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW THE GOALS OF HIS MISSION AND THEREFORE WE CAN ONLY COMMENT: THIS EXPERIENCED AND PRACTICAL DIPLOMAT HAS ALREADY MEDIATED IN VARIOUS PRECARIOUS SITUATIONS.

"IMMEDIATELY AFTER STALIN'S DEATH HE CONSOLIDATED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION.

"IN THE SUMMER OF 1956 HE CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET PARTY WITH THE YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVES SO SUCCESSFULLY THAT THE KNOWN RECONCILIATION WITH TITO WAS REACHED. DURING THE CARRIBBEAN CRISIS OF 1962 HE FLEW TO THE U.S. AND CONTRIBUTED TOWARD A RENEWED NORMLIZATION OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

"THIS BRIEF SUMMARY OF HIS DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY SUFFICIENTLY CONFIRMS VASILI KUZNETSOV'S CAPABILITIES. THEREFORE HIS MISSION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAN EVOKE HOPE IN SOME RESPECTS CONCERNING SUCCESSFUL IMPULSES IN THE PROCESS OF THE NORMALIZATION OF OUR SITUATION."

(RADIO BRATISLAVA/M, DOMESTIC/M, SEPT 10, 0600) 

KK/REN/A/1056/68