

CN 52

X/13 CS - FRENCH TELL MOSCOW: "WITHDRAW TROOPS"

PARIS, SEPT 10 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) - - - FRANCE HAS OFFICIALLY CALLED ON THE SOVIET UNION TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO END ITS ARMED INTERFERENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAK AFFAIRS.

THIS IS REVEALED IN A PARIS INTERVIEW BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL DEBRE. HE SAID THE FRENCH ATTITUDE HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO MOSCOW IN A NOTE HANDED TO PARIS AMBASSADOR VALERIAN ZORIN.

INTERVIEWED BY THE GAULLIST DAILY, LA NATION, DEBRE SAID THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD PROVOKED "IMMENSE STUPOR IN THE WORLD". AND IT WAS NOT WITHOUT REASON THAT "THE QUASI TOTALITY OF NATIONS HAVE CONDEMNED AN ACTION WHICH WENT AGAINST THE POLICY OF DETENTE, ADVOCATED BY RUSSIA ITSELF".

THE MINISTER SAID : " IN ACTING LIKE THIS, MOSCOW ABANDONED THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE BY ONE POWER IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER POWER". HE UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT THIS PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN "REAFFIRMED IN ALL THE OFFICIAL TEXTS SIGNED BY THE SOVIET UNION FOR YEARS", INCLUDING THE FRANCO-SOVIET DECLARATION SIGNED BY GENERAL DE GAULLE AND NIKOLAI PODGORNYY AT THE END OF THE FRENCH LEADERS 1966 VISIT TO MOSCOW.

DEBRE NOTED THAT THE SOVIET INVASION WAS "A MILITARY OPERATION... COMPRISING, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1945, THE APPEARANCE OF GERMAN TROOPS BEYOND GERMAN FRONTIERS". THE INVASION WAS AN EVENT "VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPE".

(MORE)

BG/HE *12/21*

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