

X-13-CS- CS EMBASSY URGES CITIZENS TO RETURN FROM WEST

(RELEADS CN 66)

GENEVA, SEPT. 10 (RFE SPECIAL-/MAHONEY) -- THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN BERN TODAY APPEALED TO ALL OF ITS CITIZENS IN SWITZERLAND TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES TO SPEED ""NORMALIZATION "" AND THE ""DEPARTURE OF WARSAW PACT TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA"".

THOUSANDS OF CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE STREAMED INTO THIS COUNTRY SINCE THE SOVIET OCCUPATION. AN AVERAGE OF 300 DAILY ARE STILL COMING. A HIGH PERCENTAGE ARE PROFESSIONAL MEN (DOCTORS, INTELLECTUALS AND SKILLED TECHNICIANS.)

WHILE RECOGNIZING ALL THAT SWITZERLAND HAS DONE TO AID THESE PEOPLE AND EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION, THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY SAID THAT ITS CITIZENS COULD HELP THEIR COUNTRY BY RETURNING. IT PLEDGED THAT THEY WOULD FACE NO DIFFICULTIES UPON THEIR RETURN, THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO BORDER CROSSING PROBLEMS, AND THAT THE EMBASSY ITSELF STOOD READY TO HELP THEM RETURN IN ANY WAY.

THE APPEAL SAID THAT THE ""PROCESS BY WHICH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PUBLIC POWERS ARE RESTORING A NORMAL SITUATION DEMANDS A GREAT EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL, AS WELL AS THE UNION OF THE CZECH AND THE SLOVAK PEOPLES. THE RETURN OF ALL CITIZENS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE NORMALIZATION OF THE LIFE IN THE COUNTRY AND TO THE DEPART OF THE TROOPS OF THE WARSAW PACT.""

WHEN THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SWITZERLAND REACTED IMMEDIATELY BY THROWING ITS BORDERS OPEN, ISSUING FREE THREE-MONTH VISAS TO ALL CZECHOSLOVAKS, ASSISTING THEM IN EVERY WAY WITH TRANSPORT, FOOD, SHELTER, AND CLOTHING AND PERMITTING THEM TO GO TO WORK IMMEDIATELY. IN ADDITION SWISS FAMILIES BY THE THOUSANDS OPENED THEIR HOMES TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKIA INFLUX.

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