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X-13-WORLD- KOHOUT SILENT ON RETURN TO UNCTAD SEAT

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 10 (RFE SPECIAL/MAHONEY) -- JAROSLAV KOHOUT, CZECHOSLOVAK DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AVOIDED ALL COMMENT ON HIS ONE - WEEK DELAY WHEN HE TOOK OVER THE PRESIDENTIAL GAVEL OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD ) THIS AFTERNOON.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK BOARD PRESIDENT WAS UNABLE TO ARRIVE IN GENEVA FOR THE START OF THE TRADE BOARD SESSION ON SEPT. 2.

HOWEVER LAST WEEK MR. KOHOUT CABLED THAT HE INTENDED TO ARRIVE. HE ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

AMBASSADOR AOUM AGANAYE OF CHAD, A FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, HAD BEEN ACTING IN HIS PLACE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE DAILY SESSIONS. TODAY THE CHAD AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS GREAT PLEASURE, AND THAT OF ALL DELEGATIONS, ON THE RETURN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT.

MR. KOHOUT, AFTER TAKING THE GAVEL, MADE NO APOLOGIES NOR DID HE GIVE ANY EXPLANATIONS FOR HIS ABSENCE. HE THANKED THE CHAD AMBASSADOR, EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO ALL DELEGATES FOR THEIR OPERATION EXTENDED TO AMBASSADOR AGANAYE, AND IMMEDIATELY TURNED TO AGENDA BUSINESS.

PRW/LA1700/68/AMJ