

OUTGOING CIPHER MESSAGE

SEP 30

TO: 17:46

MUN 109

30 SEP 68

TO: DURKEE INFO YARROW HOVEY ROWSON KAUFMANN
FM: WALTER INFO COOK

30/1623-- U R G E N T --

HERE WITH A REPORT PREPARED BY DR. PECHACEK'S SON PAUL
ON THE RELATION OF PEOPLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO RADIO FREE EUROPE:

RELATION OF PEOPLE AT HOME TO THE FREE EUROPE.

AT PRESENT FREE EUROPE ENJOYS AN ENORMOUS REPUTATION WITH PEOPLE AT HOME. I SAY IT VERY RESPONSIBLY: TODAY PEOPLE OF ALL CLASSES SPEAK OF IT IN SUPERLATIVES.

I DID NOT LISTEN TO IT OFTEN IN THE PAST BECAUSE IT WAS JAMMED; I RATHER HEARD IT OUTSIDE PRAGUE WHERE IT WAS NOT JAMMED ONCE IN A YEAR, AS WAS SAID. NEVERTHELESS, I REGARDED IT AS INCITING BEFORE. IT WAS ONE OF TWO BEST CZ. RADIO COMMENTATORS WHO SOME TIME AGO ANALYSED FE HISTORY AND CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS NEVER INCITING. PERSON REFERRED TO IS KAREL JEZDINSKY OF RADIO PRAGUE HE COULD NOT ENFORCE THIS VIEW IN THE PAST. THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF CONTROL BY LISTENERS OWING TO THE STRONG JAMMING; MOSTLY THERE WAS NO CONTROL, AND FORMER CZ. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA, ACTING ON THE RULE A LIE REPEATED A HUNDRED TIMES BECOMES TRUTH, CONTRIBUTED TO IT.

IT WAS IN JANUARY THIS YEAR THAT VOICES APPEARED IN OUR PRESS, TOO, THAT FREE EUROPE'S EMISSIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY OBJECTIVE. VERY MANY CITIZENS SUPPORTED WITH SIGNATURES THIS CAMPAIGN LED IN THE FIRST PLACE BY CZ. RADIO AGAINST JAMMING OF THIS STATION. AFTER TALKS WITH FE WERE PUBLISHED IN STUDENT AND OBRANA LIDU, A CERTAIN DIVISION OF OPINIONS TOOK PLACE. PEOPLE AGREED WITH THE TEXT OF THESE ARTICLES, BUT THESE COULD NOT BE REPRINTED IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS OWING TO UNFAVOURABLE TIME OF PUBLICATION/ BEFORE TALKS AT CIERNA/. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GRIST TO THE MILL FOR AUTHORS OF THE WARSAW PACT LETTER: A WORN-OUT ARGUMENT OF THE CONNECTION OF CZ. JOURNALISTS WITH SO-CALLED IMPERIALISTS IN THE WEST. LUCKILY NOT A SMALL PART OF READERS UNDERSTOOD THAT FREE EUROPE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNPROFITIOUS TIME OF PRINTING THESE ARTICLES, BUT RATHER THE EDITORS OF THE PAPERS WHO DECIDED TO PRINT THE INTERVIEWS.

THEN CAME 20TH AUGUST 1968 AND WITH IT THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT TROOPS. THE RELATION OF CZ. CITIZENS TOWARD FE APPEARED UNMISTAKABLE. PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO LISTEN TO THE STATION (MORE)

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ON THE MEDIUM WAVE LENGTH GIVEN BY THE POLES TO THE DISPOSAL OF CZ. EMISSIONS. AND I REPEAT, THIS WAS AN OVER-ALL SUCCESS: RFE WAS LISTENED TO PRACTICALLY EVERYWHERE, FROM FACTORIES TO PRIVATE RECEIVERS. AS I KNOW, A SECTION CHIEF IN A BIG FACTORY OFFICE, MANY YEARS A COMMUNIST, GAVE HIMSELF A HINT FOR LISTENING TO RFE, SAYING PEOPLE MAY SO LEARN ABOUT THE MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE. MY PERSONAL REACTION TO THE RFE EMISSIONS COULD BE TESTED IN MY EMPLOYMENT IN CZ. PRAGUE RADIO. THERE IT WAS APPRECIATED IN SUPERLATIVES: THE BEST CZ. RADIO WORKERS, EDITORS, ASSISTANTS, PRODUCERS, COMMENTATORS, TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES, BOTH COMMUNISTS AND NON-PARTY PEOPLE, APPRECIATED RFE AS HIGHLY OBJECTIVE AND AN ENORMOUS HELP IN THE CRITICAL DAYS OF THE OCCUPATION. ALSO VERY WELCOME WAS THE HELP GIVEN BY RFE TO CZ. RADIO BY SUPPORTING IN CRITICAL DAYS THE DOMESTIC TRANSMISSION. EVEN THOSE HAD ENTIRELY CHANGED THEIR MINDS WHO IN THE PAST CONSIDERED RFE AN INCITING STATION BECAUSE THEY WERE EITHER IGNORANT OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SO-CALLED CLASS FIGHT AGAINST WESTERN IMPERIALISTS OR OF MENDACIOUS COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA.

THE RESULT OF RFE'S POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON CZ. CITIZENS IN THOSE HARD DAYS HAS BEEN A UNIQUE SUCCESS, AS WELL AS A PLEDGE FOR THE FUTURE OWING TO THE TRUST IT NOW ENJOYS WITH THEM AND IN VIEW OF THE CHEERLESS PROSPECT AND LIMITATION OF PRESS FREEDOM AT HOME. IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THE TREMENDOUS PATIENCE AND OBJECTIVITY OF RFE WAS THE 100 PER CENT RIGHT WAY, THOUGH PEOPLE WOULD HAVE LIKE MORE TO HEAR SHOUTING THAN LOGICAL AND QUIET COMMENTARIES. ANOTHER EVIDENCE IS TODAY THE SERIOUS APPRECIATION OF THIS STATION ON THE PART OF COMMUNISTS-PATRIOTS, OPPONENTS OF THE OCCUPATION BY WARSAW PACT TROOPS. SOME OF THESE OPPONENTS WOULD PREFER HEARING FROM RFE THE APPEALS TO MORE INTENSE STRUGGLE AGAINST OCCUPANTS THAN QUIET AND OBJECTIVE INFORMATION. YET TODAY IT IS CLEAR THAT AN OBJECTIVE AND UNSTIRRING REPORTING SERVICE HAS BEEN FULLY (MORE)

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APPROPRIATE. THE ENEMIES WERE THUS DEPRIVED OF AN IMPORTANT WEAPON THEY HAD USED AFTER THE BLOODY EVENTS IN HUNGARY IN 1956, WHEN THEY PRETENDED THAT THE HUNGARIAN FE TRANSMISSION, BY ITS EXCITED ATTITUDE AGAINST SOVIET TROOPS, WAS GUILTY OF THAT BLOODSHED. IT IS POS-

SIBLE THAT HERE, TOO, THE PROPAGANDA OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS SATELLITES, CAPABLE OF THE WORST, MAY YET TAKE A SIMILAR ATTITUDE IN REGARD TO THE RFE, IT WOULD BE ONLY AT THE PRICE OF LYING.

SUCH A CONCORDANCE OF OPINIONS HAVING TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN TRANSMISSIONS OF CZ. RADIO AND THOSE OF RFE IN THE OCCUPATION DAYS, AS WELL AS BETWEEN RFE EMIGRANTS IN EXILE AND PEOPLE AT HOME IS UNPRECEDENTED, EVEN UNBELIEVABLE. CZECHOSLOVAK RFE TRANSMISSIONS WERE IN THE MOST OPPRESSIVE DAYS RECEIVED AT HOME AS FROM AMONG THEIR OWN PEOPLE; THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PATRIOTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE CZ. EMIGRATION IN FREE EUROPE. CZ. CITIZENS WILL NEVER FORGET SUCH A SURPRISING FACT!

END MSG