

RADIO FREE EUROPE

MUNICH

OUTGOING CIPHER

1972 FEB 18

16:27

TO: 

MUN 34 18 FEB 72

TO: DURKEE INFO PETZALL YARROW HOVEY DUNNING REYMAN
FM: WALTER INFO COOK BEDE BERNARD BROWN KOHAK LYON
NOWAK PECHACEK/BELLUS ZAHARIEFF

181549:

RFE DAILY REPORT NO. 40

1. BULGARIA: NOTHING.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: WE ARE STILL AWAITING A WORKABLE TEXT OF HUSAK'S SPEECH TO THE CC ECONOMIC PLENUM WHICH OPENED YESTERDAY.

THE RELEASE AND EXPULSION OF OCHETTO IS COVERED IN THE NEWS ITEMS SENT DS. CLEARLY, INTERNATIONAL OPINION PLAYED ITS PART IN SECURING THE ITALIAN JOURNALIST'S RELEASE, ALTHOUGH CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA (TELEVISION AND CETEKA) ARE CLAIMING THAT OCHETTO ADMITTED THAT HE PERFORMED THE FUNCTION OF COURIER BETWEEN PELIKAN AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS ALSO COULD HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ACCELERATING OCHETTO'S RELEASE.

POLITIQUE HEBDO, THE FRENCH LEFT-WING WEEKLY, QUOTES A LETTER REPORTEDLY SENT BY MILAN HUEBL TO HUSAK ALREADY IN 1970 WARNING HIM OF A DEVELOPING SITUATION THAT COULD LEAD TO A NEW ERA OF POLITICAL TRIALS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT IS A PROPHETIC LETTER AND, HAVING NO REASON TO DOUBT ITS AUTHENTICITY, WE ARE QUOTING IT WITH CLEAR ATTRIBUTION TO POLITIQUE HEBDO. (DS)

CS PRESS SURVEY PUBLISHED TODAY CONTAINS FULL TEXT OF RUDE PRAVO 10 FEBRUARY SHARP REJECTION OF IDEOLOGICAL COEXISTANCE.

(MORE)

3. HUNGARY: DPA, QUOTING A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN IN BUCHAREST, REPORTS THAT THE NEW (LONG OVERDUE) FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH RUMANIA WILL BE SIGNED DURING THE VISIT OF KADAR AND HIS ENTOURAGE TO BUCHAREST.

TANJUG YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE YUGOSLAV PARTY, IGNAC GOLOB, HAD VISITED BUDAPEST AND HAD A "LONG, FRIENDLY MEETING" WITH KOMOCSIN ON THE SUBJECT OF INTER-PARTY CO-OPERATION.

4. POLAND: NOTE THE NOT UNEXPECTED APPOINTMENT OF WOJNA TO THE TOP JOB AT ZYCIE WARSZAWY AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOTTESMAN'S APPOINTMENT TO THE DEPUTY EDITORSHIP OF THE NEW LITERATURA, UNDER PUTRAMENT (BOTH ITEMS SENT DS). WOJNA'S APPOINTMENT IS THE REWARD FOR A CAPABLE JOURNALIST WHO RALLIED QUICKLY TO THE SIDE OF GIEREK. THE APPOINTMENT OF GOTTESMAN (BOTH LIBERAL AND JEWISH) IS NOT ONLY A SIGN OF THE CURRENT COMPROMISE IN THE SPHERE OF CULTURE BUT ALSO AN INDICATION THAT THE POST-MARCH 1968 SEVERE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS IN THIS SPHERE HAS, AT LEAST PARTLY, BEEN LIFTED.

5. RUMANIA: NOTE THE PROMISE (ITEM SENT DS) THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY AGERPRES ON GENERAL SERB IS EXPECTED "IN A DAY OR TWO." A RUMANIAN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN IN VIENNA YESTERDAY TOLD CORRESPONDENTS THAT SERB WAS "NO LONGER A GENERAL." WHAT AGERPRES WILL ADD TO THIS IS A MATTER FOR SPECULATION.

THE RUMANIAN COUNTRY MEETING TODAY DISCUSSED THE SERB CASE. IT WAS INEVITABLY INCONCLUSIVE BUT THE GENERAL INCLINATION WAS TOWARD SERB'S COMPLICITY IN AN ANTI-CEAUSESCU PLOT LAST SUMMER AND

(MORE)

THAT IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE CASE WAS CONCLUDED BY ABOUT NOVEMBER. THIS WOULD BEST EXPLAIN THE APPARENT RELAXATION OF SOVIET-RUMANIAN TENSIONS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. THE AP STORY THAT SERB WAS ONLY EXECUTED AT THE END OF JANUARY WAS VIEWED WITH SOME SKEPTICISM. A POINT ON WHICH THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS THAT CEAUSESCU'S OWN POSITION IS BY NO MEANS AS STRONG AS IT WAS AND THE SOLID UNITY IN THE RUMANIAN LEADERSHIP THAT SEEMED APPARENT UP TILL LAST SUMMER HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY SHAKEN.

6. OTHER: NOTHING.

END MSG