

CN 90

C/S - 1ST ADD HEALTH OFFICIAL WARNS (CN 89) X X X SITUATION."

(REUTER) THE PRAGUE TRADE UNION NEWSPAPER PRACE TODAY TOOK UP THE CAUSE OF MR. JOSEF SMRKOVSKY, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHO IT SAID HAD BEEN ATTACKED BY THE PRESS OF THE OCCUPATION POWERS.

IT SAID THE ATTACKS WERE VULGAR AND TASTELESS AND ADDED:

"WE HAVE LOST THE RIGHT ALWAYS TO EXPRESS THE VIEWS WHICH WE HOLD AND THE RIGHT TO REPORT ALL THE TRUE INFORMATION AND THE RIGHT TO DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST UNJUST ATTACKS.

"WE CANNOT DEFEND THE HEAD OF THE HIGHEST CONSTITUTIONAL ORGAN OF THE STATE IF A SECOND-RATE PUBLICIST ATTACKS THE CHAIRMAN WITH TASTELESS ARGUMENTS. EVEN LESS CAN WE DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST VULGAR FANTASIES."

BG/DJG/LA 1830/68 SEPT 8