

CN 198

C/S - 1ST ADD - 1500 INTRO WESTERN REACTION (CN 189) XXX HOME

BONN: WEST GERMANY CONDEMNED THE INVASION AS A "CLEAR INFRINGEMENT OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA." THIS STATEMENT WAS ISSUED AS THE BONN CABINET HELD A SPECIAL MEETING AND INDIVIDUAL WEST GERMAN LEADERS ALSO STRONGLY CRITICISED THE CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS. WEST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ SAID IN HIS CAPITAL: "WE ARE SHOCKED, STUNNED AND WORRIED."

ROME: THE POPE EXPRESSED HIS FEARS OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT A PUBLIC AUDIENCE FOR PILGRIMS AT CASTELGANDOLFO. HE SPOKE OF THE "GREAT TREPIDATION" AROUSED IN HIS SOUL, AND SAID HE HOPED THAT "WISDOM WILL PREVAIL OVER ALL ASPECTS OF THE CONFLICT."

THE POLITBURO OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY MET AND EXPRESSED ITS SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT AND FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND THE INVASION. BUT THE POLITBURO PASSED FINAL ASSESSMENT TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE FULL DIRECTORATE. PARTY LEADER LUIGI LONGO WAS REPORTED ON HIS WAY BACK FROM HOLIDAY IN MOSCOW.

THE PARTY DAILY UNITA EXPRESSED PROFOUND CONCERN OVER THE INVASION. ITALIAN SOCIALISTS AND LIBERALS HAVE ALSO CONDEMNED THE INVASION, WITH SOCIALIST LEADER PIETRO NENNI COMMENTING: "THE MORAL FORCE OF FREEDOM IS PUT TO A VERY HARD TEST. WE MUST NOT DESPAIR AGAINST A BRUTAL FORCE OF ARMS."

LONDON: BRITISH LEADERS INTERRUPTED THEIR HOLIDAYS FOR DISCUSSIONS, AND LATER A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT CALLED THE INVASION A "FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND ALL ACCEPTED STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR."

THE STATEMENT SAID THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WAS BEING RECALLED EARLY FROM RECESS MONDAY. LONDON POLICE SEALED OFF THE STREET IN WHICH THE SOVIET EMBASSY STANDS AS FEARS ROSE OF POSSIBLY DEMONSTRATIONS.

(MORE)

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