

X/13 C/S - PCI POLITBURO FAILS TO "UNDERSTAND" INVASION

ROME, AUG. 21 .- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON) .- THE POLITBURO OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY MET HERE THIS MORNING AND EXPRESSED ITS "SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT" AND FAILURE TO "UNDERSTAND" THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT PASSED FINAL ASSESSMENT TO A FUTURE MEETING OF THE FULL DIRECTORATE.

IN A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE MEETING THIS MORNING, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY DIRECTORATE MEMBERS NOW IN ROME -- MANY, INCLUDING PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL LUIGI LONGO, ARE STILL ON VACATION -- THE POLITBURO ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE SAYING:

"THE POLITICAL OFFICE OF THE PCI, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATE PRESENT IN ROME, MET THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE SERIOUS SITUATION WHICH AROSE SUDDENLY THROUGHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF TROOPS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT WITHIN THE CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY.

"THE DISCUSSIONS AND AGREEMENTS OF CIERNA NAD TISOU AND BRATISLAVA HAD BEEN GREETED BY THE DIRECTING ORGANS OF THE PCI WITH GREAT SATISFACTION. THIS WAS IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE NEED EXPRESSED BY THEM FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAD RISEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA OVER THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

"(THIS WAS) A SOLUTION TO BE REALIZED WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTONOMY OF EACH PARTY AND OF EACH COUNTRY, ON THE LINES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PROCESS OF RENEWAL TAKING PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SO AS TO REINFORCE EFFECTIVELY THE UNITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKER AND COMMUNIST MOVEMENT. (MORE) BG/HE *bm* 1547/68 6