

X/13 E/W -- BRITISH TRADE UNIONS CONDEMN INVASION

LONDON AUGUST 21--(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--THE
BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL TODAY CONDEMNED
THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EXPRESSED ITS SYMPATHY
WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS AND WITHDREW THE INVITATION ISSUED
TO THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET TRADE UNIONS TO ATTEND THE T.U.C.

CENTENARY CONGRESS NEXT MONTH.

THE CONGRESS GROUPS MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION
BRITISH UNION MEMBERS AND THE COUNCIL ADVISED ITS AFFILIATED
UNIONS TODAY TO RECONSIDER THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD VISITS
TO AND FROM COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK PART IN THE INVASION.

GENERAL SECRETARY GEORGE WOODCOCK SAID THE
COUNCIL DECISION HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN TAKEN ON ANY DOCTRINAIRE
ANTI-COMMUNIST GROUNDS.

HE POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH UNIONS HAD RESUMED
CONTACTS IN RECENT YEARS WITH UNIONS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY HAD MORE FREEDOM THAN PREVIOUSLY
TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THEIR OWN.

IT NOW SEEMED, WOODCOCK SAID, THAT THESE
BELIEFS WERE AN ILLUSION".

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