

C/S- WESTERN PRESS GIVES BIG PLAY TO INVASION NEWS

MUNICH, AUG 21 (CNR)-- WESTERN NEWSPAPERS TODAY GIVE EXTENSIVE PLAY, WITH BIG HEADLINES AND IN SOME CASES SPECIAL EDITIONS, TO THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

RFE BUREAU REPORT:

PARIS, (RFE SPECIAL/ OVADIA)-- THE MASS - CIRCULATION FRENCH AFTERNOON PAPER FRANCE-SOIR APPEARED EARLY THIS AFTERNOON WITH AN ENORMOUS HEADLINE ANNOUNCING ACROSS THE FRONT PAGE AND IN TWO LINES: "PRAGUE OCCUPIED BY THE RUSSIANS."

IN SMALLER LETTERS, THE PAPER SAID PRAGUE WAS ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD AND THAT "ALL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS INVADDED, THIS NIGHT, BY SOVIET, POLISH, BULGARIAN, HUNGARIAN AND EAST GERMAN UNITS."

THE PAPER DEVOTED A FULL PAGE TO THE EVENTS UNDER ANOTHER EIGHT COLUMN TITLE ON PAGE THREE: "WITHIN SIX HOURS, THE RUSSIAN TROOPS OCCUPIED CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS NIGHT."

VARIOUS NEWS ITEMS AND THE HOUR-BY-HOUR RELATION OF THE FACTS WERE ILLUSTRATED BY A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING DUBCEK TOGETHER WITH BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN

"LESS THAN A FORTNIGHT AGO."

THE PAPER'S EAST EUROPEAN SPECIALIST, EVA FOURNIER, WHO ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO RETURNED FROM PRAGUE, COMMENTED IN A LONG ARTICLE TITLED "PRAGUE: ANOTHER "BUDAPEST COUP".

LE MONDE CARRIED FOUR AND A HALF PAGES FULL OF NEWS AND COMMENT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE PAPERS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, HUBERT BEUVE-MERY (WHO SIGNS SIRIUS) WROTE ONE OF HIS RARE EDITORIALS, PUBLISHED ONLY ON VERY SPECIAL OCCASIONS. COMMENTS WERE SIGNED ALSO BY ANDRE FONTAINE, THE FOREIGN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, HENRI PIERRE, LE MONDES MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT, PRESENTLY IN PARIS, AND RAYMOND BARRILLON, THE PAPERS EXPERT ON FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY AFFAIRS.

LE MONDE HAD CALLED ON ALL ITS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO DESCRIBE REACTION TO THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IT GAVE WIDE PLAY TO THE FLOOD OF OUTRAGED REACTION FROM VARIOUS FRENCH POLITICAL GROUPS AND SPOKESMEN.

PARIS-PRESSE BROUGHT THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPH FROM PRAGUE ON ITS FRONT PAGE, SHOWING WARSAW PACT TANKS IN FRONT OF THE PRAGUE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS.

THE PICTURE WAS BLOWN UP OVER SIX OF THE PAPERS EIGHT FRONT PAGE COLUMNS.

OVER THREE FULL PAGES, PARIS-PRESSE RECAPITULATED LAST NIGHTS EVENTS.

THE CATHOLIC EVENING PAPER LA CROIX RELEGATED THE POPES SOUTH AMERICAN VISIT TO A SECOND RANK POSITION, AND USED MORE THAN FIVE PAGES ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

ROME, (RFE SPECIAL/TEMPEST).-- ALL ROME AFTERNOON PAPERS DEVOTED THEIR ENTIRE FRONT PAGES TO EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY. MOMENTO SERA AND IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA HAVE SO FAR PUT OUT TWO EDITIONS AND THE OUT-OF-TOWN PAPERS WHICH CAME OUT TOO EARLY TO REPORT THE INVASION PUT OUT SPECIAL ISSUES.

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