

X/13 E/W BRITISH COMMUNIST DAILY COMMENTS ON "'TRAGIC MISTAKE"'
OF INTERVENTION

LONDON, AUGUST 22--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)- THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY NEWSPAPER MORNING STAR COMMENTS IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL TODAY ON THE FEELING AMONG OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES THAT "'A TRAGIC MISTAKE"' WAS MADE IN RESORTING TO MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE EDITORIAL REITERATES THE VIEW EXPRESSED YESTERDAY EVENING IN A STATEMENT BY THE PARTY'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE THAT DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN THE DESPATCH OF TROOPS, IS THE WAY TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES.

THE FULL- COLUMN EDITORIAL STARTS OFF:

"'MANY FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OF THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SENT TROOPS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WILL FEEL THAT A TRAGIC MISTAKE HAS BEEN MADE'".

IT WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF ANY OF THE PARTIES TAKING PART IN THE BRATISLAVA MEETING ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, "'FURTHER DISCUSSION, RATHER THEN MILITARY INTERVENTION, WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CORRECT AND ADVANTAGEOUS WAY TO ACT'".

THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT NO NAMES HAVE YET BEEN GIVEN OF THE PERSONS WHO WERE SAID TO HAVE APPEALED TO MOSCOW FOR MILITARY ACTION, THAT RUSSIA HAS N O T CLAIMED THAT IT INCLUDES MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CP PRESIDUM AND THAT IT APPEARS THAT THE PRESIDUM WAS N O T CONSULTED ABOUT THE MILITARY MOVE.

THE MORNING STAR GOES ON:

"'THE PRODUCTION OF THE STATEMENT BY THE AS YET ANONYMOUS GROUP DOES N O T JUSTIFY THE MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE, AND WHICH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY HAS DEPLORED'".

THE EDITORIAL MAKES THE EXPECTED BRIEF ATTACKS ON "'IMPERIALIST"' LEADERS AND THEN CONCLUDES WITH AN APPEAL FOR COMMUNIST UNITY:

"'UNDOUBTEDLY THIS IS A TESTING TIME FOR ALL SUPPORTERS OF SOCIALISM, AND THERE WILL BE DIFFERENCES IN THE ESTIMATIONS MADE ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING.

"'BUT WE MUST N O T ALLOW THESE DIFFERENCES TO CREATE DIVISIONS AMONGST US THAT WILL ONLY HELP THE COMMON RIGHT WING AND CAPATALIST ENEMY. UNITY OF ALL ON THE LEFT IS MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER."

BG/Elm 1411/68 *b*