

THE TEXT OF THE BRITISH PARTY PAPER EDITORIAL SAID:

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.

THE BRATISLAVA MEETING WAS WELCOMED AS PROOF THAT IN DISCUSSION, AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON WAYS OF OVERCOMING COMMON PROBLEMS.

ONLY TWO WEEKS HAVE PASSED, AND IF SOME PARTIES WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING, FURTHER DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN MILITARY INTERVENTION, WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CORRECT AND MORE ADVANTAGEOUS WAY TO ACT.

IT IS SAID THAT MILITARY ACTION WAS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL FROM A GROUP OF COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THREE THINGS SHOULD BE NOTED ABOUT THE GROUP. FIRST, AT THE TIME OF WRITING, NO NAMES HAVE YET BEEN GIVEN FOR ITS MEMBERS.

SECOND, IT IS NOT CLAIMED THAT IT INCLUDES MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, ALTHOUGH IT IS SAID TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

AND THIRD, ON THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT PRESENT, IT APPEARS THAT THE PRESIDUM WAS NOT CONSULTED ABOUT THE MILITARY MOVE, AND KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT. THE PRESIDUM, ITS STATEMENT SAYS, WAS ACTUALLY IN SESSION CONSIDERING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS DUE ON SEPTEMBER 9, WHEN THE TROOPS BEGAN TO MOVE IN.

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

THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY LEADERS HAD SHOWN THEIR AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS TO SOCIALISM FROM THE IMPERIALIST FORCES AND HAD EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO DEFEND THEIR FRONTIERS AND SOCIALIST SYSTEM.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEM AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON VOLUNTARY CO-OPERATION TO THIS END WAS, AND IS, THE WAY TO DEFEAT IMPERIALIST PLOTS, DEFEND SOCIALISM, AND REBUFF WARMONGERS LIKE PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

THE SPECTACLE OF THIS MAN, WHOSE TROOPS ARE MASSACRING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF VIETNAMESE, POSING AS THE FRIEND OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IS REVOLTING.

SO, ALSO, IS THE CLAIM BY MR STEWART, THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY, TO BE DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF SMALL NATIONS, WHEN HE HAS ALL THE WAY THROUGH BEEN AN ABJECT APOLOGIST FOR THE AMERICANS IN VIETNAM.

EVEN MORE HYPOCRITICAL ARE THE STATEMENTS OF THE WEST GERMAN MILITARISTS, WHOSE POLICY, SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, HAS MAINTAINED AN ACUTE STATE OF TENSION IN EUROPE AND PREVENTED THE CREATION OF A SYSTEM OF EUROPEAN SECURITY.

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