

BERLIN, AUG 22 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH) --THE EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST PRESS TODAY INTERPRETED THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT FORCES AS A LAST-MINUTE MOVE TO SAVE PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

YESTERDAY'S TASS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTERVENTION AND THE ALLEGED APPEAL OF ACZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST GROUP SEEKING HELP FROM

THE "FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" DOMINATED THE FRONTPAGES OF THE EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS UNDER BIG HEADLINES .

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PAPERS REPORTED ABOUT "A FLOOD OF TELEGRAMS, TELETYPE MESSAGES AND PHONE CALLS" WHICH EAST GERMAN FACTORY AND FARM COLLECTIVE STAFFS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS SENT TO THE PAPERS AND TO THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE EAST GERMAN STATE COUNCIL AND THE GOVERNMENT IN APPROVAL OF THE WARSAW PACT MEASURES.

CITING OFFICIAL SOVIET, POLISH, HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN STATEMENTS, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, THE OFFICIAL SED DAILY, SAID THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS "APPROVAL OF THE WORKING PEOPLE IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AND "ALARM AND UNCONTROLLED OUTBREAKS OF RAGE IN THE RULING CIRCLES OF THE NATO STATES." HOWEVER, ALL EAST GERMAN PAPERS FAILED TO REGISTER THE NEGATIVE RUMANIAN AND YUGOSLAV REACTION TO THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT TROOPS.

WHILE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND CARRIED NO EDITORIAL COMMENT OF ITS OWN, THE SEMI-OFFICIAL (EAST) BERLINER ZEITUNG JUSTIFIED THE MOVE BY COMMENTING THAT "PEACE, FREEDOM, SECURITY AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLES OF OUR SOUTHERN NEIGHBOR COUNTRY WERE IN EXTREME DANGER."

BERLINER ZEITUNG SAID ALL PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN MADE BY "ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES IN THE CSSR" TO TEAR THE COUNTRY OUT OF THE "SOCIALIST FAMILY OF NATIONS" AND TO "DRAG (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) BACK INTO THE DARKEST CAPITALIST PAST."

THE CALL FOR HELP TO THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES ON THE PART OF CZECHOSLOVAK "PARTY AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES LOYALLY DEVOTED TO SOCIALISM AND MARXISM LENINISM" WAS "AN ACT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE," BERLINER ZEITUNG COMMENTED.

THESE "LOYAL" ELEMENTS WERE FIGHTING "A BATTLE FOR...EUROPEAN SECURITY," THE PAPER CONTINUED AND SAID THAT ALREADY NOW "IRREVOCABLE TRUTHS" HAD BECOME EVIDENT

"AN EXPORT OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION WILL NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE.

....THE FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE PACTS, WHICH LINK US (THE SCIALIST COUNTRIES) WITH ONE ANOTHER, ARE NOT RPT NOT MERELY PAPER BUT A HOLY PLEDGE TO HELP AND TROTECT ONE ANOTHER, IN GOOD AS WELL AS IN DIFFICULT TIMES."

(MORE)

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