

CN 256

CS -WESTERN COMMUNISTS AGAINST INVASION (1700 ROUNDUP)

MUNICH, AUG 22 (CNR) - THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE WEST TODAY CONTINUED THEIR ASSAULT ON MOSCOW OVER THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE LEADER OF THE BIGGEST PARTY IN THE WEST, ITALY'S LUIGI LONGO, ARRIVED IN PARIS TODAY ENROUTE BACK TO ROME FROM A VACATION IN THE SOVIET UNION.

HE REFUSED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND WHEN ASKED BY ONE REPORTER ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT ACTION BY THE WESTERN PARTIES TO HELP CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HE REPLIED:

"FOR THE MOMENT, I DO NOT KNOW."

IN ROME, HIS PARTY'S NEWSPAPER,

**L'UNITA**, TODAY CARRIED A DISPATCH FROM ITS MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT WHO SAID THE ATMOSPHERE WAS "HARD AND HEAVY" IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL AND THE PEOPLE WERE BITTER, PERPLEXED AND ANXIOUS.

THE CORRESPONDENT SAID THE SOVIET REGIME WAS TRYING HARD TO EXPLAIN AND JUSTIFY THE INVASION, BUT HE SAID THE REASONS GIVEN "DO NOT SEEM SUFFICIENT TO HAVE BEEN CAPABLE OF PROVOKING THE DECISION TO HAVE RECOURSE TO ARMED FORCE TO MEET PROBLEMS WHICH ARE FUNDAMENTALLY PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENLARGEMENT OF SOCIALISM."

IN LONDON, THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY TERMED THE INVASION "A TRAGIC MISTAKE" AND SAID THE TIME WAS ONE OF TESTING FOR ALL SUPPORTERS OF SOCIALISM.

THE ANONYMOUS CALL FOR INTERVENTION PRODUCED TO EXPLAIN THE INTERVENTION DID NOT RPT NOT JUSTIFY IT, THE BRITISH PARTY PAPER SAID.

(MORE)

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