

X/13 CS - ITALY REBUKES SOVIETS, REAFFIRMS NATO

ROME, AUG 22.- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON).-THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TODAY CALLED ON THE SOVIET UNION TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IT ALSO ASKED FOR UNITED NATIONS ACTION AND RE-AFFIRMED THE VALIDITY OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ALLIANCE AS A GUARANTOR AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF FREEDOM.

THESE DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AT A LENGTHY CABINET MEETING CONVENED IN ROME BY PREMIER GIOVANNI LEONE.

IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE MEETING, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED:

"THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EAST EUROPE CONSTITUTES A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE NATURAL RIGHTS OF PEOPLES, OF THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

"SUFFOCATING BY FORCE OF ARMS THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION NOW TAKING PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE AGGRESSION STRUCK A HARSH BLOW AT THE LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF A PEOPLE AND AT THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE.

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