

CN 308

CS - POLISH, SOVIET PRESS DEFENDS INVASION (RELEADS CN 234, 252)

MUNICH, AUG 22 (CNR) - THE SOVIET AND POLISH PRESS ATTEMPTED TODAY TO JUSTIFY THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE SOVIET PARTY PAPER PRAVDA ACCUSED CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK OF BEING THE LEADER OF A RIGHTWING MINORITY IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDUM.

A 13,000-WORD ATTACK SAID HE HAD TAKEN A FRANKLY RIGHTWING OPPORTUNISTIC LINE AT THE CIERNA NAD TISOU MEETING WITH THE SOVIETS AND HAD LATER BROKEN THIS AND THE BRATISLAVA AGREEMENTS.

IT CHARGED THAT HE HAD DEFENDED SOCIALISM ONLY AS A COVER AND HAD IN FACT CONNIVED AT COUNTER-REVOLUTION. HIS LIBERAL COLLEAGUES WERE ACCUSED OF ENCOURAGING ANTI-SOVIET TRENDS, VIRTUALLY OPENING CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S WESTERN BORDER, AND WANTING TO TURN THE COMMUNIST PARTY INTO A SORT OF DISCUSSION CLUB.

THIS SORT OF ATMOSPHERE HAD BECOME COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, PRAVDA SAID. THE SOCIALIST DESTINY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS NOT AN INTERNAL MATTER, IT SAID, AND THE DEFENCE OF SOCIALISM THERE WAS A DEFENCE OF WORLD SOCIALISM.

IN WARSAW, THE POLISH PARTY PAPER TRYBUNA LUDU STRESSED THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE WARSAW ALLIANCE.

IT SAID THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS MEDIA HAD BECOME A DOMAIN OF REVISIONIST OR OPENLY ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES, POSONING PUBLIC OPINION. THIS SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD BECOME UNACCEPTABLE, IT SAID.

BG/HE 1707 AUG 22

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