

P-13, NEW YORK, AUGUST 22 (RFE SPECIAL/ZWADIUK)--THE FREEDOM HOUSE ISSUED A STATEMENT HERE THURSDAY IN WHICH IT URGED THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL "TO VOICE THE HORROR OF WORLD OPINION" OVER THE MILITARY ACTION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS SATELLITES AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN THE STATEMENT, ISSUED BY THE ORGANIZATION'S CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, FORMER SENATOR PAUL. H. DOUGLAS, FREEDOM HOUSE SAID: "WE DECLARE OUR STRONGEST SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO, BECAUSE THEIR COUNTRY IS ONCE AGAIN OCCUPIED BY FOREIGN TROOPS, MAY NOW BE IN GREAT PERSONAL HAZARD."

AT THE SAME TIME FREEDOM HOUSE, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF AMERICANS "WHO BANNED TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN FREEDOM HERE AND ABROAD," ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF ITS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LEO CHERNE, LEFT WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR VIENNA, AUSTRIA, FROM WHERE HE WILL HEAD FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE TO AID THE REFUGEES WHO WILL MANAGE TO ESCAPE.

MR. CHERNE, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN AIDING REFUGEES IN 1956 DURING THE HUNGARIAN UPRISING. HE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A SIMILAR CAPACITY WHEN THE BERLIN WALL WAS CONSTRUCTED, DURING THE CUBAN CRISIS AND IN VIETNAM.

THE STATEMENT, DRAFTED BY THE FREEDOM HOUSE BOARD, SAID THAT "ONCE AGAIN, AS IN 1938 AND 1948, CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS RUDELY AWAKENED THE CONSCIENCE OF THE FREE WORLD -- AND ITS FREE VOICE." THE DECLARATION, TITLED "THE DEATH OF A DREAM," WENT ON TO SAY THAT "OUR WORLD HAD HOPED THAT THE CZECH PEOPLE, FREEDOM-LOVING, YET PRAGMATIC, WOULD BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE RIGID STALINISM OF THEIR OWN PAST AND THE RECENT PROGRESS TOWARD EMANCIPATION. WE HOPED THAT FROM THAT BRIDGING, THE WIDER GAP BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST AND FREE WORLDS WOULD ALSO BE CLOSED, AND IN THE SAME PROGRESSIVE WAY."

"WE THEREFORE," SAID THE STATEMENT, "KEPT OUR SILENCE, IN THE WEST, AS THE CZECHS REACHED FOR MORE FREEDOM," IN ORDER NOT TO GIVE THE SOVIETS ANY "EXCUSE TO IMPOSE THE BRUTAL KIND OF CONSEQUENCES ON THE CZECHS AS THEY HAD IMPOSED ON THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE IN 1956."

"WE AVOIDED EVEN THE SEMBLANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE CURRENT LIBERALIZATION STRUGGLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE CZECH PEOPLE DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACT WITH CAUTION AND RESTRAINT--SHORT OF ABANDONING ALTOGETHER THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION," THE STATEMENT DECLARED.

IT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "ALL WAS TO NO AVAIL," BECAUSE THE "SOVIET MASTERS" HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY REGARD ANY STEPS TOWARD OPEN POLITICAL ACTION AS ANATHEMA.

"THEY ARE UNABLE TO TOLERATE, NOT ONLY FREE EXPRESSION BUT EVEN THE PROSPECT OF POLITICAL COMPETITION. WHEN THAT PROSPECT SEEMED CLOSE, THE SOVIETS CLAMPED DOWN HARD," THE STATEMENT SAID AND ADDED THAT NEITHER CZECH RESTRAINT NOR AMERICAN NON INTERVENTION HAD "THE SLIGHTEST DETERRENT EFFECT."

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