

CN 87

Q/S - PRAVDA WARNS ON PROVOCATIONS (W/CN 81)

MOSCOW, AUG. 23, REUTER -- THE SOVIET PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA WARNED TODAY THAT "PROVOCATIONS" AGAINST SOVIET AND OTHER WARSAW PACT OCCUPATION TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA "CANNOT BUT MEET WITH A DECISIVE REBUFF."

THE WARNING CAME IN A REPORT FROM PRAGUE BY TWO OF THE NEWSPAPERS TOP COMMENTATORS, VIKTOR MAYEVSKY AND VASILY JURAVSKI, AS THE SOVIET UNION MADE CLEAR ITS CONTINUED DETERMINATION TO SET UP A REGIME IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ACCEPTABLE TO IT.

AT THE SAME TIME ANOTHER TOP COMMENTATOR, YURI ZHUKOV, SHARPLY CRITICISED FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES WHICH HAVE CONDEMNED THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS FOUR CLOSEST ALLIES--POLAND, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE SOVIET PEOPLE HAD BEEN TOLD OF THE EXTENT OF THE WORLD PROTEST MOVEMENT AGAINST THEIR LEADERS ACTIONS. HITHERTO ONLY "IMPERIALISTS" HAD BEEN QUOTED AS OBJECTING.

THE PRAVDA COMMENTATORS SAID THAT, DESPITE AN APPEAL FOR CALM BY PRESIDENT LUDVIG SVOBODA ON WEDNESDAY, "FORCES CLEARLY INTERESTED IN COMPLICATING THE SITUATION, IN CREATING DISORDER IN THE COUNTRY, ARE CONDUCTING PROVOCATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND OUR COMMON INTERESTS.

"IT IS CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT THESE PROVOCATIONS CANNOT BUT MEET A DECISIVE REBUFF," THEY ADDED.

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