

X/13 E/W -- MORNING STAR COMMENTS ON SOVIET INTERVENTION

LONDON AUGUST 23--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, THE MORNING STAR, TODAY AGAIN CONDEMNED THE RUSSIAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SAID THE EVIDENCE PRODUCED BY MOSCOW "IS EXTREMELY UNCONVINCING."

THE FRONT PAGE COLUMN-LENGTH EDITORIAL SAID THE ARGUMENTS SO FAR ADVANCED "TO TRY TO JUSTIFY WHAT HAS HAPPENED RAISE MORE QUESTIONS THAN THEY ANSWER."

AS FOR THE ARGUMENT THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS WERE NOT CARRYING OUT THE BRATISLAVA AGREEMENT, THE STAR ASKED "IN THAT CASE, WHAT WAS TO PREVENT A NEW APPROACH TO THEM?"

AS FOR THE STATEMENT THAT ONLY A MINORITY OF THE PRESIDUM OPPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRATISLAVA PACT, THE STAR ASKED "IN THAT CASE WHAT WAS TO PREVENT THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY PREVAILING? AND WHY HAVE THE MAJORITY NOT RPT NOT NOW COME FORWARD TO DECLARE THEIR POSITION?"

THE EDITORIAL WENT ON:

"MILITARY INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE, WITH THE INTENTION OF REMOVING SOME OF THE MAIN LEADERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY LESS THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE A PARTY CONGRESS, IS AN ACTION WHICH COMPLETELY CONTRADICTS THE RIGHTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS TO DECIDE THEIR OWN POLICY AND LEADERSHIP."

COMMENTING THAT SMERY COMMUNIST AND MANY NON-COMMUNISTS CONSIDER MOSCOW'S CONCERN ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP FULLY JUSTIFIED, THE STAR SAID:

"BUT THE EVIDENCE WHICH HAS BEEN PRODUCED TO SHOW THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS HAD CREATED AN URGENT DANGER OF THE COUNTRY LEAVING THE WARSAW PACT, AND OF BEING CONTROLLED BY IMPERIALISM. IS EXTREMELY UNCONVINCING."

FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

THE LABOUR PARTY LEADERS HAVE RUSHED IN TO ORGANISE A "CZECH FREEDOM RALLY" ON SUNDAY, WITH MR GEORGE BROWN AMONG THE SPEAKERS.

ALTHOUGH OPPOSITION TO THE BOMBING OF NORTH VIETNAM AND THE U.S. ARE OFFICIAL LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE POLICY, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY MEETING ADDRESSED BY BROWN ON THESE SUBJECTS.

NOR IS THERE ANY SIGN OF HIS ORGANISING ONE ON THE FREEDOM ENJOYED BY NEARLY 600,000 UNEMPLOYED MEN AND WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY.

HE AND MANY OTHERS LIKE HIM ARE WHIPPING UP ANTI-SOVIET FEELINGS TO TRY TO REVIVE THE COLD WAR.

COMMUNISTS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THESE RIGHT-WINGERS, BUT APPROACH THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SENT TROOPS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES, THE DEFENCE OF SOCIALISM? AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

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