

X/13 BRIT--LETTERS OF PROTEST AT INVASION IN BRITISH PAPERS

LONDON, AUGUST 23 (RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--LETTERS OF PROTEST, CONDEMNATION AND SHOCK AT THE WARSAW PACT POWERS INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FILL THE COLUMNS OF BRITISH NEWSPAPERS THIS MORNING. THEY COME FROM DISTINGUISHED WRITERS, POLITICIANS, ACADEMICS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ORDINARY CITIZENS.

IN THE GUARDIAN, 20 WRITERS HAVE SIGNED A LETTER WHICH SAYS SIMPLY "WE CAN DO NO MORE THAN EXPRESS OUR GRIEF AT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OUR SYMPATHY WITH THOSE WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS WHO HAVE SPOKEN SO BRAVELY ON THEIR BEHALF. WE HOPE THAT THE ANGER WE FEEL AT OUR HELPLESSNESS TO DO MORE IS SHARED BY THE WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS OF THE COUNTRIES WHOSE ARMIES HAVE INVADDED THE TERRITORY OF THEIR NEIGHBOR."

AMONG THE SIGNATORIES ARE NOVELISTS ANGUS WILSON, KINGSLEY AMIS AND ANTHONY BURGESS, ESSAYISTS DIANA AND LIONEL TRILLING AND REBECCA WEST AND PLAYWRIGHT H. JOHN ARDEN.

AMONG 20 LETTERS PRINTED IN THE TIMES, IS ONE FROM THE LEADING HISTORIAN PROFESSOR HUGH SETON-WATSON, WHO WRITES "ANGUISH AT THE FATE OF THE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS SHOULD NOT DIVERT US FROM REALIZING THAT IT IS THE WHOLE OF EUROPE WHICH IS NOW IN DANGER. THE SOVIET LEADERS ARE COMMITTING AGGRESSION, MURDER AND PERJURY...THE SAME THING COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW IN AUSTRIA, WEST GERMANY OR YUGOSLAVIA...IT IS VITAL THAT ALL THE FREE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY COORDINATE AND REVITALIZE THEIR DEFENSES."

SETON-WATSON ENDS BY ASKING: "CANNOT THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE FIND SOME WAY OF MAKING KNOWN TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE THEIR LOATHING AND CONTEMPT FOR BREZHNEV AND HIS TEAM? IS NOT THE CSSR A COMPLETE CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF THE SOVIET UNION IMMENSELY STRONG? CAN IT NOT BE ORGANIZED IN PRACTICE?"

CONSERVATIVE PARTY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ELDON GRIFFITHS AND DOUGLAS DODDS-PARKER CALL IN THEIR LETTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER A TRADE AND CULTURAL BOYCOTT OF THE SOVIET UNION AS LONG AS THE OCCUPYING TROOPS REMAIN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

EDWARD BEDDINGTON-BEHRENS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT, SAYS THE INVASION STRESSES THE NECESSITY FOR UNITING WESTERN EUROPE.

BISHOP B.C. BUTLER AND DR. PETER DRAPER, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE AGNOSTIC BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION, JOINTLY SIGN A LETTER WHICH SAYS THAT UNTIL THE SOVIET POLICY IS REVERSED, THE WHOLE WORLD MOVEMENT TOWARD A DIALOGUE AMONG RELIGIOUS BELIEVERS, HUMANISTS AND MARXISTS "WILL BE DISCREDITED."

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WRITER KAY DICK ASKS FOR A NATIONWIDE APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE "A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF THE SOVIET UNION UNTIL SUCH TIMES AS THEIR INVADING TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN."

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