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X/13 C/S - PCI SEEKS RETAIN STRENGTH

ROME, AUG. 23.- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON). ITALYS COMMUNIST PARTY FEARS THAT THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA MAY CAUSE IT SEVERE VOTER AND MEMBERSHIP LOSSES. THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE REPORTS FEATURED TODAY IN LUNITA, THE PARTYS OFFICIAL ORGAN.

THIS NEWSPAPER FEATURES THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK "PARTY AND GOVERNMENT SEEK IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS" AND REITERATES THE POLITBUREAUS "REPROVAL" OF THE "UNJUSTIFIED" INVASION.

BUT IT ASSAILS THE LEONE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS STEPS TO STRENGTHEN THE ATLANTIC TREATY AND, EDITORIALY, ATTACKS ALL ITALYS POLITICAL PARTIES WHO SEEK TO "PROFIT" BY THE INVASION AND CALLS UPON ITALIAN WORKERS TO RETAIN THEIR FAITH IN "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM."

LUNITA LENGTHILY REGERTS, IN SOME CASES REPEATING YESTERDAYS REPORTING, THE ENTIREITY OF DECISIONS AND BROADCAST WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY.

EDITORIAL WRITER ROBERTO ROMANI STATES THAT THE "BOURGEOIS PRESS" - - IN WHICH HE INCLUDES THE SOCIALIST AVANTI -- "SEEKS TO SEIZE THE FAVORABLE OCCASION FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE, TO ISOLATE THE WORKERS AVANTGARDE AND TO STRIKE ITS BLOW. WITH WHAT TRIVAILITY THE BELLY-DEEP ANTI-COMMUNIST PRESS, PARTIES AND POLITICALLY BOURGEOIS MEN CHUCKLE ELATEDLY.

"THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE WORKERS MOVEMENT ARE FOR THEM SOMETHING MORE THAN AUTHENTIC PROFESSIONAL DAINTY MORSELS, THEY ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REDEMPTION.

"A GRAVE DECISION, CONTESTED BY US, TAKEN BY THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD ENNOBLE IN THEIR EYES A SERVILE ATLANTIC CAREER OR AN ANTI-PEOPLE POLICY."

(MORE) BMCG/DJG/A<sup>for</sup> 1419/68 79