

BERLIN, AUG. 23 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH) -- THE EDITORIALS IN THE EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS TODAY UNANIMOUSLY JUSTIFIED THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AS A LAST-MINUTE MOVE TO SAFEGUARD PEACE IN EUROPE.

"THE ACTION OF SOLIDARITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CSSR, FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMRADES WHO HAVE TAKEN UP THE BATTLE AGAINST THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN THEIR COUNTRY, IS...A DEED FOR PEACE IN EUROPE," THE OFFICIAL SED (COMMUNIST) DAILY NEUES DEUTSCHLAND COMMENTED ON ITS FRONT PAGE.

SIMILARLY, THE SEMI-OFFICIAL (EAST) BERLINER ZEITUNG SAID THAT "A VICTORY OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN THE CSSR WOULD, BECAUSE OF THE CHANGED BALANCE OF POWER AND THE GAP OPENED UP IN THE PEACE FRONT, NECESSARILY HAVE ENCOURAGED THE MILITARIST AND REVANCHIST GANG TO MAKE WAR. SO SERIOUS WAS THE SITUATION."

NEUE ZEIT, THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL DAILY OF THE EAST GERMAN CDU, STATED EDITORIALLY THAT "WHEREVER SOCIALISM IS BEING UNDERMINED OR ADULTERATED, PEACE IS ALSO BEING ENDANGERED. THE DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS IN THE ...CSSR IS NO INTERNAL BUT AN INTERNATIONAL MATTER."

JUNGE WELT, THE NEWSPAPER OF THE "FREE GERMAN YOUTH" (FDJ) ORGANIZATION, COMMENTED THAT "A CAPITALIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA... WOULD HAVE MIGHTILY INSPIRED THE WESTERN ZEAL IN MATTERS OF OST-POLITIK. WITH A ONCE-SOCIALIST COUNTRY IN THEIR POCKET THEY WOULD EVEN HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AFFORD PLACING CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF THE 'OLD' OSTPOLITIK -- I.E., DIRECT AGGRESSION AGAINST THE SOCIALIST STATES - BACK ON THE AGENDA."

ALL PAPERS CONDEMNED THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS FOR WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS A BREACH OF THE BRATISLAVA AGREEMENTS AND FOR THUS ALLEGEDLY PROMOTING THE ACTIVITIES OF COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS.

"NOW THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FRATERNAL PARTIES WAS NEEDED," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND SAID IN ITS FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL.

"WITH A VICTORY OF THE COUNTER-REVOLUTION WE WOULD HAVE HAD A STATE AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER THAT WOULD BE STANDING OUTSIDE THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY." PERHAPS ONE DAY NATO MIGHT EVEN HAVE EXTENDED AS FAR EAST AS THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS."

SUCH SUCCESS WOULD HAVE MADE THE "WEST GERMAN MILITARISTS... ALTOGETHER WANTON AND INSPIRED THEM TO FURTHER ADVENTURES. A SLIDING OF THE CSSR INTO THE CAMP OF IMPERIALISM WOULD HAVE MEANT WAR," THE PAPER WARNED.

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