

X/4 C/S - CHOU CONDEMNS SOVIET INTERVENTION (RELEADS CN - 73)

MUNICH, AUG 23 (CMD) - CHINESE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI SAID TODAY THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE "STRONGLY CONDEMN" THE "CRIME OF AGGRESSION" AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE USSR AND ITS FOLLOWERS, ACCORDING TO THE NEWS AGENCY HSINHUA.

THE AGENCY QUOTED CHOU AS SAYING THAT COMMUNIST CHINA FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE IN "THEIR HEROIC STRUGGLE OF RESISTANCE TO SOVIET MILITARY OCCUPATION."

CHOU'S STATEMENTS WERE PART OF A SPEECH MADE IN PEKING AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE RUMANIAN EMBASSY THERE TO MARK RUMANIA'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY. HSINHUA ISSUED A FULL TEXT OF THE 700-WORD SPEECH.

CHOU WAS QUOTED AS SAYING:

"A FEW DAYS AGO, THE SOVIET REVISIONIST LEADING CLIQUE AND ITS FOLLOWERS BRAZENLY DISPATCHED LARGE NUMBERS OF ARMED FORCES TO LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA ... THUS PERPETRATING TOWERING CRIMES AGAINST THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE."

CHOU SAID THAT RUMANIA WAS NOW RPT NOW FACING THE DANGER OF "FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND AGGRESSION," AND THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE SUPPORTED THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE.

CHOU SAID:

"THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE STRONGLY CONDEMN THE SOVIET REVISIONIST LEADING CLIQUE AND ITS FOLLOWERS FOR THEIR CRIME OF AGGRESSION -- THE ARMED OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- AND FIRMLY SUPPORT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE IN THEIR HEROIC STRUGGLE OF RESISTANCE TO SOVIET MILITARY OCCUPATION." (HSINHUA, AUG 23)

CR/BG/HE /RT

1830/68 H.J.