

P-11 NEW YORK, AUGUST 23 (RFE SPECIAL/ SHELTON) -- REPUBLICAN VICE-PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE, GOVERNOR SPIRO AGNEW OF MARYLAND, SAID TODAY THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY RUSSIAN AND OTHER COMMUNIST TROOPS TAXES UNITED STATES' BELIEF IN THE COMMUNIST WORD AND SERIOUSLY ENDANGERS THE EAST-WEST DETENTE.

AGNEW SPOKE ON A TELEVISION SHOW THIS MORNING.

AGNEW WAS ASKED IF HE THOUGHT THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION WAS HANDLING THE UNITED STATES' ROLE IN THE CZECHOSLOAK CRISIS PROPERLY. HE REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE UNITED STATES IS DOING THE PRACTICAL THING.

HE SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TELL WHETHER THE CRISIS WOULD HELP THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S CHANCES OF WINNING THE ELECTON IN NOVEMBER.

HE ALSO ADDED THAT:

"WE'RE ALL VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN SITUATION, PARTICULARLY, BECAUSE IT TAXES OUR BELIEVING IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD.

THE DETENTE THAT EVERYONE WAS STRIVING FOR SEEMS TO HAVE REMOVED ITSELF SOMEWHAT FURTHER FROM REALITY. AND, AT THE MOMENT, I THINK THAT THE THINGS THAT ARE BEING DONE ARE ABOUT ALL THAT WE CAN DO.

WE'RE TERRIBLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE CZECH AND THE SLOVAK PEOPLE, BOTH OVER THERE AND THE ONES IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HAVE RELATIVES THERE, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING IS THE PRACTICABLE THING TO DO.

WE DO HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS A MEMBER OF THE WARSAW PACT AND WE HAE NO ENTANGLEMENTS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THE WAY OF COMMITMENT. THIS IS A STRUGGLE WITHIN COMMUNISM AND PERHAPS WILL TELL A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT IT'S NOT THE SYSTEM THEY THINK IT IS."

BG/HI

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