

X/13 CS - PCI SUPPORTS DUBCEK WITHOUT OFFENDING SOVIETS

ROME, AUG.23.--(RFE SPECIAL/WILSON).--THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S DIRECTORATE, AFTER A DAYLONG MEETING, LINED ITSELF UP BEHIND DUBCEK AND OTHER 'NEW COURSE' LEADERS, ASKED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF OCCUPATION TROOPS BUT WAS CAREFUL NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

THE DIRECTORATE AVOIDED THE WORD "CONDEMNATION" BUT DID EMPHASIZE THE DANGERS OF THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AND, IN ADDITION, BITTERLY ASSAILED THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO IMPEACH COMMUNISM.

THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS SAID THAT THE DIRECTORATE HAD "FULLY ENDORSED THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE POLITBUREAU AND LONGO'S DECLARATION ON CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS".

IT READ"

"THE DIRECTORATE OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY REITERATES ITS GRAVE DISAGREEMENT WITH AND REPROVAL OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION BY THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER FOUR COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BEING UNABLE IN NO RPT RPT NO MATTER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCE TO ADMIT THE VIOLATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANY STATE.

"THE DIRECTORATE OF THE PCI HOLDS IT INDISPENSIBLE AND URGENT THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FIVE INTERVENING COUNTRIES ACCEPT THE REQUEST ADVANCED BY BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY FOR THE TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN, AGREE THAT THE LEGAL ORGANS, DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED, OF THE STATE RESUME THEIR ACTIVITIES, AND ASSURE TO COMRADE DUBCEK AND THE OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS THE POSSIBILITY TO CARRY OUT FREELY THEIR WORK. BG/0 2113/68

15