

LONDON AUGUST 24--(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER MORNING STAR TODAY AGAIN ATTACKED THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA EDITORIALY AND SAID THE SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK MEETING IN MOSCOW WOULD HAVE A FAR GREATER CHANCE OF PRODUCING AGREEMENT IF ALL THE PRAGUE LEADERS "WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FREELY."

THE STAR SAYS NO RPT NO EVIDENCE HAS YET BEEN PRODUCED TO SHOW THAT THE ENTRY OF THE INVADING TROOPS WAS REQUESTED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT OR PARTY LEADERS AND "THE FAILURE TO PRODUCE SUCH EVIDENCE AFTER NEARLY 72 HOURS INDICATES THAT THERE WAS IN FACT NO REQUEST FROM ANY RESPONSIBLE CZECHOSLOVAK BODY."

"THE INTERVENTION OF THE TROOPS OF THESE COUNTRIES CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED EITHER ON LEGAL GROUNDS OR ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES," THE STAR SAYS.

"IF THE INITIAL INTERVENTION AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP WAS A TRAGIC MISTAKE, ATTEMPTS TO CONTINUE TO ACT IN DEFIANCE OF THE WISHES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNISTS WOULD BE STILL MORE TRAGIC," THE EDITORIAL SAYS.

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL:

ALL WILL HOPE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SVOBODA AND HIS COLLEAGUES AND SOVIET LEADERS RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT WHICH RESPECTS CZECHOSLOVAK SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS, DEFENDS SOCIALISM, AND STRENGTHENS CO-OPERATION BETWEEN SOCIALIST STATES.

THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE FAR GREATER IF ALL THE LEADING CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FREELY IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

AS A RESULT OF THE ENTRY OF THE G TROOPS OF THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AN EXCEPTIONALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION HAS BEEN CREATED.

NO EVIDENCE HAS YET BEEN PRODUCED THAT THE ENTRY OF THE TROOPS WAS REQUESTED BY THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE FAILURE TO PRODUCE SUCH EVIDENCE AFTER NEARLY 72 HOURS INDICATES THAT THERE WAS IN FACT NO REQUEST FROM ANY RESPONSIBLE CZECHOSLOVAK BODY.

THE INTERVENTION OF THE TROOPS OF THESE COUNTRIES CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED EITHER ON LEGAL GROUNDS OR ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES.

THE CHARGE IS LEVELLED AGAINST THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP THAT IT DID NOT CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF THE BRATISLAVA AGREEMENT.

BUT WHATEVER THE DEFICIENCIES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN THIS RESPECT, THE MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE MOST CERTAINLY CONTRAVENES THAT PASSAGE IN THE BRATISLAVA STATEMENT WHICH SPOKE OF "RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE," AND TO WHICH ALL SIX OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES THERE PUT THEIR SIGNATURES.

FORTUNATELY, THOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF SOME VIOLENT INCIDENTS, THE DECISION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT TO ORDER ITS TROOPS NOT TO RESIST THE INTERVENTION HAS PREVENTED A MAJOR CLASH.

(MORE)

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