

## FRENCH COMMUNISTS DENY THEY "RETREATING" ON PRAGUE

PARIS, AUG 24 (RFE SPECIAL) --- ETIENNE FAJON, MEMBER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBURO, DENIED ON A FRONTPAGED EDITORIAL IN L HUMANITE SATURDAY ALLEGATIONS THAT THE PARTY WAS SOFTENING ITS STAND ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

FAJON, SAID THAT "BY EXPRESSING AS EARLY AS THE MORNING OF AUGUST 21ST, ITS SURPRISE AND ITS REPROBATION AT THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF OUR PARTY CAUGHT THE PROFESSIONALS OF ANTI-COMMUNISM OFF THEIR FEET. THEY NEEDED SEVERAL HOURS TO RECUPERATE AND TO INVENT AN UNEXPECTED ARGUMENT."

"CALLED BY THE POLITICAL BUREAU, OUR CENTRAL COMMITTEE MET THURSDAY. AT THE END OF ITS DELIBERATIONS, IT UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION WHICH WAS PUBLISHED. IMMEDIATELY, LIKE MUSICIANS CONDUCTED BY AN ORCHESTRA LEADER, THE REACTIONARY JOURNALISTS, ON THE AIR OF EUROPE-1 OR FRANCE-INTER, OR IN THE COLUMNS OF FIGARO, LAUREORE OR FRANCE-SOIR, STRUCK UP A COMMON AND MONOTONOUS TUNE : THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IS CLEARLY IN RETREAT TO THE DECLARATION OF THE POLITBURO.

THIS IS, OF COURSE, PURE AND SIMPLE INVENTION. THE RESOLUTION IN QUESTION, SAYS, ON THE CONTRARY THAT "THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ADOPTING THE DECLARATION OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF AUGUST 21, 1968, DISAPPROVES OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

FAJON ALSO SAID: "OUR PARTY HAD INFORMED THE CONCERNED FRATERNAL PARTIES, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, OF ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY MILITARY INTERVENTION. IT HAS TAKEN A SERIES OF INITIATIVES IN CONSEQUENCE. IT DISAPPROVES OF THE INTERVENTION AND IT HAS SAID SO WITH COMPLETE CLARITY.

"THE EVENTS LEADING TO DISAGREEMENT ARE GRAVE. HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT ERASE THE HISTORY OF THE PAST 50 YEARS. IT WAS THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION THAT OPENED THE ERA OF SOCIALISM FOR HUMANITY. IT WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SOVIET UNION WHICH, AT THE COST OF EXTRAORDINARY SACRIFICES, PERMITTED FRANCE TO FREE ITSELF FROM THE HITLER-YOKE AND ITS HORRORS. CREATED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALIA LIBERATION, OUR FRIENDSHIP LINKS WITH THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY - OF WHICH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION MAKES MENTION - WERE CONSOLIDATED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION.

"THUS, THE POSITION OF OUR PARTY ON THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS PERFECTLY CLEAR AND LOGICAL. EVEN IF THE REACTIONARIES, WHO WARMLY APPLAUDED WHEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS DELIVERED TO BE CUT UP BY THE HITLERISTS IN THE MUNICH AGREEMENT EXACTLY 30 YEARS AGO, PRETEND THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT."

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