

## X/13 C/S - L'UNITA REFLECTS CONCERN

ROME, AUG. 24.--(RFE SPECIAL/WILSON).--GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE EFFECTS OF THE SOVIET INVASION ON DOMESTIC COMMUNISM AS WELL AS ON COMMUNIST UNITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WAS REFLECTED IN THIS MORNINGS REPORTS ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK DRAMA IN LUNITA, THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

THIS NEWSPAPER CONTINUED TO SUPPORT AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATION BUT AT THE SAME TIME AVOIDED ANY OUTRIGHT CENSURE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND FEATURED THE CEREMONIAL WELCOME GIVEN PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA IN MOSCOW.

THIS PAPER RAN LENGTHY STORIES FROM ITS CORRESPONDENTS IN MOSCOW, PRAGUE AND VIENNA.

THE LEAD STORY IN LUNITA WAS THE MOSCOW-DATELINED AUG. 23 REPORT OF SVOBODAS ARRIVAL AND THE NEGOTIATIONS, WRITTEN BY ADRIANO GUERRA, WHO DEPICTED THE ATMOSPHERE AND FEELINGS IN HIS STRAIGHT NEWS REPORT.

COMMENTING ON THE CEREMONIAL OF THE WELCOME, THE FLAGS, GUN SALUTES AND BUSLOADS OF FACTORY WORKERS HASTILY DRIVEN UP TO CHEER, GUERRA SAID:

"THUS, AN ATMOSPHERE WHICH UP UNTIL LAST NIGHT AND THE EARLY HOURS THIS MORNING WOULD HAVE BEEN ABSOLUTELY UNFORESEABLE. ....SVOBODA IS A GREAT FRIEND OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ALSO A LITTLE THE SYMBOL OF THE FRIENDSHIP BORN BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES DURING THE ANTI-NAZI WAR YEARS....

"BUT TODAY SVOBODA HAS COME TO MOSCOW TO PLACE THE SOVIET LEADERS IN FRONT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION, WHICH IS DRAMATIC, COMPLEX, BUT WHICH HOWEVER, IS ILLUMINATED BY THE VERY VITAL PRESENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND BY THE SOLIDITY OF THE TIES WHICH LINK THE POPULAR MASSES TO THE PARTY.

"IT IS A DIFFICULT MISSION...THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, IN THE MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION THAT A COMMUNIST PARTY HAS, PERHAPS, EVER HAD TO FACE -- BECAUSE IT IS ONE THING TO MEASURE UP TO AN ADVERSARY AND ANOTHER THING TO DO SO WITH A FRIEND AND COMRADE WHO DOES NOT RPT NOT UNDERSTAND ONE -- HAS REMAINED ERECT, THE ONLY POLITICAL FORCE CAPABLE OF WHOLLY EXPRESSING THE FIEDELITY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO SOCIALISM AND TO THE PRINCIPLES OF AUTONOMY IN RELATIONS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

"IN MOSCOW NOW ONE IS ASKING ABOUT THE FORCES ON WHICH SVOBODA IS RELYING, WHAT ARE -- IN PARTICULAR -- HIS RELATIONS WITH THE PARTY, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE COUNTRY.

"THE ONLY SURE THING IS THAT FROM DAWN ON MONDAY UNTIL TODAY NO RPT NO VOICE HAS BEEN RAISED EITHER IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR IN THE SOVIET UNION IN NEGATIVE APPRECIATION OF THE PERSON OR POSITION OF THE CHIEF OF STATE. HIS APPEALS HAVE BEEN BROADCAST -- WITH WHAT RESULT -- BY BOTH THE CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO AND THE SOVIET PRESS.

"THE TWO CONFLICTING PARTIES, THEREFORE, HAVE DONE EVERYTHING NOT RPT NOT TO TIE DOWN THE CHIEF OF STATE WHO CAN THUS PRESENT HIMSELF TODAY AS THE CUSTODIAN OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND DIGNITY OF HIS PEOPLE AND AS A FIRM FRIEND OF THE SOVIET UNION.

"THE CENTRAL PROBLEM UNDER DISCUSSION NOW BETWEEN THE SOVIET LEADERS AND SVOBODA IS THAT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS AND THE RECOGNITION WHICH IS AWAITED FIRST OF ALL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT, GIVEN THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY.

"THE THEME OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ANTISOCIALIST FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAN NOT RPT NOT BUT BE SEEN AS TAKING THIS INTO ACCOUNT. AND IT IS, THIS SHARPENING OF THE ANTI-SOCIALIST DRIVE, A PROBLEM CERTAINLY PRESENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY.

(MORE)

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