

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD - L'UNITA REFLECTS CONCERN (CN 163) XXX TODAY

"THAT WHICH HAS BEEN HAPPENING HAS INDEED, NATURALLY, UNLEASHED GROUPS OF RIGHT FORCES WHICH HAVE SEEN IN THE MILITARY INTERVENTION A CHANCE TO RESUME THEIR BATTLE. THEREFORE, THERE IS NO TIME TO LOSE BUT THE WAY TO DEFEAT THE ATTEMPTS OF ANTI-SOCIAL GROUPS IS THAT OF RE-ESTABLISHING THE FULL AND LEGITIMATE SOCIALIST POWER.

"WHAT CHANCES ARE THERE OF THIS ROAD BEING TAKEN ? THE ARRIVAL OF SVOBODA INDICATES PERHAPS THAT SOMETHING NEW BEGINS TO MATURATE. THUS, WHILE THERE LACKS NEWS ON POSSIBLE CHANGES OF POSITION ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS THE VERY BEGINNING OF TALKS IN MOSCOW SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT ONE IS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A NEW WAY."

GIUSEPPE BOFFA WRITING UNDER A VIENNA DATELINE, AUGUST 23, AND GIVEN TOP PLAY IN THIS MORNINGS LUNITA SAYS:

"SVOBODAS MISSION TO MOSCOW IS THE DOMINATING EPISODE OF THE DAY IN THIS GRAVE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS. WILL IT HAVE A DECISIVE CHARACTER ? IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY."

"THE OTHER EVENT WHICH CAN HAVE A DETERMINATING WEIGHT IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE PARTYS EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS WHICH WAS HELD IN PRAGUE EVEN IN THIS SITUATION OF EXTREME DRAMA. NEWS IN OUR POSSESSION CONFIRMS THAT THIS WAS A REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY. THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES PRESENT WERE 945. THESE ELECTED A NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH MEETING IN THE NIGHT, HAS ALREADY PROCEEDED TO DESIGNATING A NEW PARTY PRESIDUM."

"THE DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING SVOBODA TO MOSCOW IS FAIRLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIVERSE OPINIONS SEEN IN THE PARTY, AT LEAST UNDER THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH ONE CAN TALK OF REPRESENTATION AT A MOMENT OF FORCED ABSENCE OF THE MOST QUALIFIED EXPONENTS OF THE PARTY ITSELF.

"ALONGSIDE BILAK AND INDRA -- MEN IN WHOM THE EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS HAS MANIFEST LACK OF CONFIDENCE AND WHOSE NAMES HAVE BEEN POSTED UP THESE LAST DAYS ON THE WALLS OF PRAGUE AS SUSPECTED OF ACCEPTING THE CONDITIONS POSED BY THE FIVE OF WARSAW -- THERE ARE MEN SUCH AS HUSSAK AND DZUR, DEVOTED TO THE SUPPORT OF DUBCEK. PRESENT ALSO IS COMRADE SILHAN, WHOM THE PARTY CONGRESS HAD CHARGED WITH HOLDING THE POSITION OF PARTY SECRETARY SINCE DUBCEK COULD NOT RETURN TO THE DUTIES IN WHICH HE WAS UNANIMOUSLY RETAINED.

BOFFA ADDED: "THE HYPOTHESIS IN WHICH THE INTERVENTION HAD COUNTED FROM THE FIRST MOMENT -- THAT OF A DEFINITE SPLIT IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY AND HENCE AN IRREPARABLE FRACTURE OF THE COUNTRY AND OF ITS LEADERSHIP -- DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THAT A CRISIS EXISTS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY IS KNOWN AND WE OURSELVES HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT IT. HOWEVER, TO DATE THIS DID NOT HAVE AN IRREMIEDIABLE EVOLUTION.

BMCG/HE *lf*

AUG 24

1450/68 *AB*