

"CZECHOSLOVAKIA", SAID THE FRENCH INFORMATION MINISTER AFTER THE EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING, "HAD BEEN INVADED AND IS NOW OCCUPIED AGAINST ITS WILL.

"THE INTERVENTION BY THE SOVIET UNION IS THEREFORE CONTRARY TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATE, TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE OF ANY POWER INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER POWER.

"THIS IS, PLAINLY, AGAINST THE RIGHTS OF THE HUMAN BEING.

"WE CANNOT", LE THEULE SAID, "ACCEPT THE JUSTIFICATION WHICH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS OFFERED. THE VOCABULARY EMPLOYED : ""THE SOLIDARITY OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES"" HIES WHAT IT COMMONLY CALLED THE POLICY OF BLOCS.

"THIS POLICY HAS BEEN INSTALLED AT YALTA IN 1945, AT A CONFERENCE FROM WHICH FRANCE WAS ABSENT AND WHICH RESULTED IN THE RECOGNITION OF SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, THAT IS TO SAY, ONCE AGAIN, OF BLOCS.

"THIS POLICY OF BLOCS IS DANGEROUS FOR PEACE. FIRST, BECAUSE IT ESTABLISHES A DIVISION WHICH CAN BUT LEAD TO CONFLICTS.

"SECONDLY BECAUSE IT LEADS TO THE ADMISSION, WITHIN EACH BLOC, OF THE FACT THAT THE STRONGEST POWER IMPOSES ITS HEGEMONY.

"THIS IS NOT THE FRENCH CONCEPT.

"FRANCE HAS FREED ITSELF FROM IT. OUR ATTITUDE IS BOTH THE EXPRESSION OF OUR INDEPENDENCE WILL AND THE DESIRE TO LEAD TO TRIUMPH ANOTHER CONCEPTION OF INTERNATIONAL LIFE : ONE THAT IS BASED ON THE RIGHT OF EACH PEOPLE TO DETERMINE ITS DESTINY AND, CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS THE AFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE", THE FRENCH INFORMATION MINISTER SAID.