

X/13 E/W--BRITISH CP CALLS INVASION A "TRAGIC ERROR"

LONDON, AUGUST 25--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY "DEEPLY" DEPLORING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND CALLING IT A "TRAGIC ERROR".

"THE MILITARY INTERVENTION WHICH TOOK PLACE HAD NO RPT NO SUPPORT FROM ANY LEADING BODY IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, OR STATE, AND IS OPPOSED BY THEM," THE STATEMENT SAID.

THE STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE FOLLOWS ONE ISSUED ON WEDNESDAY BY THE 14-MEMBER POLITICAL COMMITTEE WHICH DEPLORED THE INVASION AS "COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED" AND CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS INVOLVED.

YESTERDAY'S STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE SAID:

"NO GROUNDS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD THAT CAN JUSTIFY THIS VIOLATION OF THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.

"EQUALLY DEPLORABLE IS THE INTERVENTION FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY TO REMOVE SOME OF THE LEADERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND TO PREVENT THEM CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES, LESS THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE PARTY CONGRESS WAS DUE TO OPEN ON 9 SEPTEMBER."

"THIS IS A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS."

THE STATEMENT ALSO SAID:

"WE APPROACH THE QUESTION OF THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES AND THE NEED TO DEFEND AND EXTEND THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM.

"IT IS FROM THIS STANDPOINT WE REGARD THE MILITARY INTERVENTION AS A TRAGIC ERROR."

THE BRITISH CP EXECUTIVE SAID A "FULL REPORT" OF THE DISCUSSION AT YESTERDAY'S SESSION WILL APPEAR MONDAY IN THE PARTY ORGANS, THE MORNING STAR.

AT THE SAME TIME THE PAPER, WHICH HAS THUS FAR PUBLISHED NO RPT NO LETTERS FROM RANK AND FILE MEMBERS ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS, IS TO CARRY THE FIRST BATCH OF COMMENTS, IT WAS STATED. ""

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