

VIENNA, AUG 25 (RFE SPECIAL/KOCH)-- IN A COMMENTARY ON THIS WEEKS POLITBURO MEETING, THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ATTEMPTS TO JUSTIFY ITS ANTI-SOVIET STAND TODAY AS WELL AS ITS PRO-SOVIET POSITION IT TOOK AT THE TIME OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION.

IN A COMMENTARY IN THE SUNDAY ISSUE OF THE COMMUNIST ORGAN "VOLKSSTIMME", JENOE KOSTMANN, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, DESCRIBES THE AUSTRIAN CP AS ALWAYS READY TO STAND ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE AND RIGHT.

KOSTMANN TERMS THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA "AS DISASTROUS AND OF GRAVE CONSEQUENCES". HE ENDS ON A NOTE OF OPTIMISM AS HE HOPES THAT THE ENDEAVORS BY THE AUSTRIAN AND OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES WILL BRING A "HONORABLE, PEACEFUL, POLITICAL SOLUTION" TO CZECHOSLOVAKIAS PROBLEMS.

EXCERPTS FROM THE COMMENTARY FOLLOW:

"THE TOPMOST GREMIUM OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, THE POLITICAL BUREAU, HAS DECIDED TO TAKE A STAND ON THE SUDDEN MARCH IN OF TROOPS OF THE FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THIS CRITICAL POSITION TO THE ACTION OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THE FOUR OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES DID NOT COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF FEAR OF SWIMMING AGAINST THE CURRENT. OUR PARTY, ITS LEADERSHIP, ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONARIES, HAVE PROVEN MORE THAN ONCE THAT THEY HAVE THE COURAGE TO SWIM AGAINST A HIGHLY WHIPPED-UP CURRENT, WHEN THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE MATTER INVOLVED IS LAWFUL AND RIGHTEOUS."

AFTER JUSTIFYING THE STAND OF THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH SUPPORTED SOVIET INTERVENTION IN HUNGARY IN 1956, VOLKSSTIMME STATES:

" IF THE PARTY HAS TAKEN A DIFFERENT STAND THIS TIME, THEN THE REASON IS THAT THERE IS AS GOOD AS NO PARALLEL BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN HUNGARY IN 1956 AND THAT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TODAY AND WE CONSIDER THE DECISION OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION DISASTROUS AND OF GRAVE CONSEQUENCES."

"IN TAKING THIS POSITION, IT WAS NOT A CASE OF PROVIDING OURSELVES WITH AN "ALIBI", NOR WAS IT A "TACTICAL MANEUVER" NOR A "DEMONSTRATION".

"WE WERE AND ARE CONVINCED THAT AS THE RESULT OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WE HAD AND HAVE AN IMMEDIATE TASK CUT OUT FOR US: THAT THROUGH THE TAKING A CLEAR POSITION, AN HONORABLE, PEACEFUL, POLITICAL SOLUTION CAN BE ACHIEVED."

"WE BELIEVE THAT JUSTIFIED HOPE EXISTS THAT SUCH ATTEMPTS, WHICH ARE ALSO BEING UNDERTAKEN IN THE SAME SPIRIT BY OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, WILL NOT BE WITHOUT SUCCESS."

MR/U

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