

CS - SARTRE CONDEMNS INVASION OF CSSR

ROME, AUG 25, REUTER - FRENCH LEFT-WING PHILOSOPHER JEAN-PAUL SARTRE SAID TODAY THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD BE DEFINED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AS A WAR CRIME.

SARTRE, ON HOLIDAY IN ROME, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRO-COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER PAESE SERA: "IN WHOSE INTEREST AND TO WHAT ADVANTAGE CAN A SOCIALIST COUNTRY TAKE SUCH AN ATTITUDE ?

"I CONSIDER IT PURE AGGRESSION, SUCH AS IS DEFINED IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AS A WAR CRIME."

HE SAID THE INVASION COULD NOT BE COMPARED WITH THE AMERICAN AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM, WHICH WAS "IGNOBLE GENOCIDE".

"BUT THAT DOES NOT ALTER THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ACT WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE COMMITTED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA... IN MY VIEW THEY HAVE COMMITTED A SERIOUS POLITICAL MISTAKE," SARTRE SAID.

"AT A TIME WHEN THE GREATEST UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IS NEEDED AMONG DEMOCRATIC FORCES... NOT ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION WHICH CAN PRODUCE THE OPPOSITE EFFECTS."

THE PHILOSOPHER SAID HE HOPED THAT THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD RESULT IN A DEFEAT OF STALINISM AND BRING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIBERTY TO THE SOCIALIST WORLD, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION.

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