

X/4 C/S -- RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA SAYS HUNDREDS JOIN PARTY

MUNICH, AUG 26 (CMD) -- RADIO CZECHOSLOVAKIA SAID LAST NIGHT THAT IN THE PAST FEW DAYS "HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE, AND MAINLY YOUNG PEOPLE, HAVE ASKED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE CLAIM WAS CONTAINED IN A COMMENTARY WHICH SAID THAT WHILE SOCIALISM HAD BEEN HURT BY THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, "THE NOBLE IDEAS OF TRUE SOCIALISM" WERE FAR FROM BURIED.

THE RADIO SAID THE FLOOD OF APPLICATIONS CAME "NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE PARTY IS LEADING THE STRUGGLE OF THE WHOLE NATION FOR FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WAS THIS VERY PARTY WHICH SHOWED IN THE FIRST SEVEN OR EIGHT MONTHS OF THIS YEAR THAT THE IDEAS OF SOCIALISM COULD BE REHABILITATED, AND THAT SOCIALISM NOT ONLY CAN BUT MUST BE COUPLED WITH DEMOCRACY AND HUMANISM."

THE COMMENTARY SAID THAT WITH THE INVASION THE SOVIET LEADERS "HAVE DEPRIVED THEMSELVES OF THE RIGHT TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF THE OPPRESSED NATIONS, OR TO CONDEMN THE VIETNAM WAR. THE HOPE OF THE OPPRESSED NATIONS FOR MORAL SUPPORT FROM THOSE QUARTERS HAS BEEN DASHED."

IT WAS WORTH REMEMBERING A QUOTATION FROM THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO WHICH APPEARED FREQUENTLY IN THESE TIMES ON WALLS IN PRAGUE: "NO NATION IS FREE WHICH DEPRIVES OTHER NATIONS OF THEIR FREEDOM."

SAID THE COMMENTATOR: "WE STILL BELIEVE THAT THIS SOCIALISM WILL WIN IN THE END."

(CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN ENGLISH/F AUG 25 2310, 1968)

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