

X/13 CS -- RESISTANCE EMPHASIZED IN EAST GERMAN PRESS

BERLIN, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH) -- THE MAJOR EAST GERMAN COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS, WHICH NORMALLY ARE DEVOTED LARGELY TO WEEKEND SPORTS EVENTS ON MONDAYS, TODAY WERE HEAVILY DOMINATED BY REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION ON THEIR FRONT AND INSIDE PAGES.

IN THEIR FRONT PAGE REPORTS, BOTH THE OFFICIAL SED ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND THE SEMI-OFFICIAL (EAST) BERLINER ZEITUNG PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ACTS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE OCCUPATION TROOPS WHICH THE EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS CONDEMNED AS "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OF REACTIONARY, ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES," "PROVOCATIONS" ON THE PART OF "CRIMINAL ELEMENTS" AND "EFFORTS TO COMPLICATE THE SITUATION IN EVERY MANNER."

THE PAPERS REFLECTED THIS IN TOP FRONT PAGE HEADLINES SUCH AS "COUNTER-REVOLUTION IS HURRYING UP" (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND) AND "TERRORISTS TRY TO COMPLICATE SITUATION -- DIVERSIONARY ACTS AND MURDER PLOTS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF CSSR" (BERLINER ZEITUNG).

EDITORIALLY, THE EAST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS SHARPLY ATTACKED VARIOUS CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST LEADERS INCLUDING SMRKOVSKY, CISAR, SIK AND SVITAK. NO MENTION WHATSOEVER WAS MADE OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK, HOWEVER, WHILE PRESIDENT SVOBODA'S NAME APPEARED ONLY IN THE BRIEF TASS COMMUNIQUE ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK TALKS IN MOSCOW.

WHILE NEUES DEUTSCHLAND DEVOTED A FULL PAGE TO INTERNATIONAL REACTION SUPPORTING THE WARSAW PACT INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- RANGING FROM THE REPRINT OF IZVESTIA AND PRAVDA ARTICLES TO QUOTES FROM ARAB NEWSPAPERS AND STATEMENTS OF COMMUNIST PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA, URUGUAY, FINLAND AND CHILE -- NONE OF THE EAST GERMAN PAPERS REGISTERED THE PROTESTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, RUMANIA AND WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES.

IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, WHICH ONCE MORE RECORDED THE BACKGROUND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DEVELOPMENT AS INTERPRETED BY THE SED, TERMED THOSE WHO ARE PROTESTING AGAINST THE INVASION "REACTIONARY RABBLE."

THE PAPER SAID "THE MURDERERS OF VIETNAM ARE PLAYING THE APOSTLES OF HUMANITARIANISM, THE (WEST GERMAN) STATE-OF-EMERGENCY DICTATORS APPEAR AS DEFENDERS OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. SIDING WITH THEM IN PROTEST ARE THE KZ REGIME IN ATHENS, THE COLONIAL REGIME IN LISBON AND ALL THE REACTIONARY RABBLE EXISTING IN THE WORLD."

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND WARNED THAT "IF SOMEBODY WHO DOES NOT RPT NOT BELONG AMONG THESE RANKS SHOULD FEEL THE URGE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE ACTION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF SOCIALISM, HE SHOULD FIRST LOOK AROUND TO SEE WITH WHOM HE WOULD ASSOCIATE HIMSELF."

BG/HE

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