

"THE POLITICAL OFFICE OF THE CPSU -- WHICH IN THESE DRAMATIC HOURS IS SITTING PERMANENTLY -- HAD AT THE END ACCEPTED THE SVOBODA DEMAND : DUBCEK AND CERNIK THUS WERE BROUGHT TO MOSCOW ON A SPECIAL PLANE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY.

"THE NEWS (OF THIS) NATURALLY EXPLODED LIKE A BOMB. ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE PRAVDA HAD CALLED DUBCEK: 'THE HEAD OF THE MINORITY OF RIGHT REVISIONISTS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY'S POLITBUREAU'. THE MAN WHO HAD PRACTICALLY OPENED THE DOOR OF THE COUNTRY TO COUNTERREVOLUTION, A 'POLITICAL ADVENTURER'.

"WHAT, THEREFORE, HAD HAPPENED? WHAT NEW FACT HAD CAUSED THE SOVIETS TO MODIFY, EVEN IF ONLY IN PART, THEIR STAND AND TO HOLD THE DOOR OPEN FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS EFFECTIVE LEADERS, WHOM IT HAD SOUGHT ONLY A FEW HOURS BEFORE TO REPLACE BY AN ANONYMOUS GROUP OF 'MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, OF THE GOVERNMENT AND OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY?

"THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS LIES IN THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IN THE RAPID DISSOLUTION OF THE GROUP WHICH, MAKING THE SAME EVALUATION OF THE COUNTRY'S SITUATION AS THAT OF THE SOVIETS, HAD REQUESTED THE MILITARY INTERVENTION OF THE FIVE.

"(IT ALSO) LIES IN THE LIVELY AND RESPONSIBLE REACTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS WHO, UNDER MOST DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, CLOSED RANKS AROUND THEIR LEADERS, INDICATING WITH CLARITY THE WAY TO A SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS; IN THE FIRM AND COHERENT ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT, OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES, OF THE ARMED FORCES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"ALREADY, WITHIN A FEW HOURS OF THE OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY, EVERYTHING CONFIRMED THE JUDGMENT MADE FROM THE BEGINNING BY MANY COMMUNIST PARTIES.

"(THAT IS) THAT ORDERING THE TROOPS TO CROSS THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER WAS A TRAGIC ERROR, WHICH HAS AND COULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE ANY JUSTIFICATION WITHIN SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES OF PROLETARIAT INTERNATIONALISM.

"WITH GROWING CONSTERNATION THESE SAME SOVIET CITIZENS DISCOVERED LITTLE BY LITTLE THE REALITY THAT 'THE GROUP' WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE ASKED THE HELP OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES HAD NO RPT NO POLITICAL STRENGTH, NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY OF SPEAKING TRULY FOR THE COUNTRY, OF BEING THE INTERPRETOR, EVEN IF ONLY IN PART, OF ITS WISHES.

"AT THIS POINT THERE REMAINED NO RPT NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. THAN [] TO RESUME DIALOGUE WITH THE REAL CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THAT WHICH, JUST BECAUSE IT WISHED TO REMAIN SOCIALIST AND ADVANCE ON SOCIALIST LINES, HAD CHOSEN THE PATH OF DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT, OF THE ABOLITION OF CENSORSHIP, OF LIQUIDATING THE BUREAUCRATIC POLICE METHODS OF THE PAST.

"THE COMING HOURS WILL SHOW WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A SOLUTION CAPABLE OF REOPENING THE PROSPECTS OF A NEW PHASE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST PARTIES AND THE SOCIALIST STATES. EVERYTHING THAT LIES DEEPEST IN THE HEARTS OF COMMUNISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE THUS UNDER DISCUSSION AND AT STAKE IN MOSCOW THESE HOURS.

"THE NEWS COMING FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, MOREOVER, SHOWS THAT THERE IS TRULY NO RPT NO TIME TO WASTE: THE PRESENCE OF THE FIVE (POWER) TROOPS AND THE LACK OF LEGAL ORGANS OF GOVERNMENT INEVITABLY COMPOUND THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ANTI-SOCIALIST GROUPS, THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE BARRIERS WHICH DIVIDE THE CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS FROM THE TROOPS WHICH RULE THE COUNTRY.

(MORE) MBW/ O 1530/68 AUG 26. A7-