

CN 124

X/13 C/S 2ND ADD - GOLLAN SAYS "TRAGIC ERROR" (CN 123) XXX CLAIMS

"WHAT CLEARLY HAS HAPPENED IS THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION HAS DISRUPTED THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESIDUM OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

"WE COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OF THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT THE SECURITY OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP.

"BUT SURELY THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT, PARTY AND PEOPLE, WHO ALSO SUFFERED FROM THE MUNICH BETRAYAL AND FROM HITLERITE OCCUPATION, WILL ALSO NEVER FORGET THESE DANGERS.

"INDEED THE NEW CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THE NECESSITY FOR STRENGTHENING THE WARSAW PACT, AND REAFFIRMED THAT THE SECURITY OF SOCIALIST CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD ONLY BE SECURED WITH THE SOCIALIST CAMP. THE REAL SECURITY FOR THE WHOLE SOCIALIST CAMP RESTS NOT ONLY ON THEIR MILITARY ORGANISATION BUT ALSO ON THEIR MUTUAL TRUST AND VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION.

"IN TAKING UP OUR STAND WE ARE SPEAKING AS TRUE FRIENDS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. WE ALWAYS HAVE AND ALWAYS WILL MAINTAIN THAT THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS AND THE WORKING CLASS OF THE WORLD MUST CONTINUALLY STRENGTHEN THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AGAINST THEIR COMMON ENEMY, IMPERIALISM...

"THE REAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA RESTS ON HER BEING A SOCIALIST COUNTRY IN VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 1918 WHEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS ESTABLISHED AS A SEPARATE STATE CONFIRMS THIS.

A POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND TO THESE PROBLEMS IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIALISM EVERYWHERE AND OF THE WORKING-CLASS MOVEMENT.

"PRESIDENT SVOBODA HAS FLOWN TO MOSCOW WITH A DELEGATION OF SOME LEADERS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT WHICH RESPECTS CZECHOSLOVAK SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS, DEFEND SOCIALISM AND STRENGTHEN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST STATES.

"WE URGE THE FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO REVERSE THEIR PRESENT COURSE, TO RESTORE THE NORMAL FUNCTIONING OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, AND TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS. SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH RESPECT FOR THE AUTONOMY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES ON THE BASIS OF THEIR MUTUAL CO-OPERATION".

BG/HI/11 1545/68 N