

X13 CS - - - MITTERANDS GROUP PRAISES CZECHOSLOVAKS

PARIS, AUGUST 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) - - - THE CONVENTION OF REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS, THE FRENCH LEFTIST ORGANIZATION HEADED BY FRANCOIS MITTERAND, SAID TODAY THE NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE HAD FOILED THE PLANS OF THE WARSAW PACT INVADERS AND OFFERED A LESSON TO ALL SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS.

THE CONVENTION, GROUPING LEFTWING POLITICAL CLUBS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MITTERAND, PRESIDENT OF THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT IN FRANCE PRAISED THE CZECHOSLOVAK EXAMPLE IN A COMMUNIQUE.

IT SAID : "THE NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE OF THE UNANIMOUS POPULATION HAS FOILED THE PLANS OF THE INVADERS. IT HAS PERMITTED THE LEGITIMATE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRY, SUPPORTED AGAINST THE POWER OF TANKS BY THE STRENGTH OF PUBLIC OPINION, TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS.

"THE DANGER IS FAR FROM OVER, BUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE IN THE DRAMATIC CIRCUMSTANCES THEY ARE LIVING IN IS A LESSON AND A SYMBOL FOR ALL SOCIALISTS AND ALL DEMOCRATS -"

THE COMMUNIQUE VOICED "THE ARDENT HOPE" THAT THE FIVE INVADING NATIONS WOULD "UNDERSTAND THIS LESSON AND WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS IN THE SHORTEST PERIOD IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE FREELY TO DETERMINE ITS POLICY."

THE CONVENTION SAID IT WAS "PLEASED TO SEE THAT NOT ONLY ALL THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS OF OUR COUNTRY BUT ALSO THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE CLEARLY TAKEN A POSITION IN THIS DIRECTION."

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