

"Q. BUT THE WESTERN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES HAVE INDEED REACTED WITH VIGOUR.

"A. YES, CERTAINLY, THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND THAT OF THE FRENCH (COMMUNIST PARTY) ARE VERY, VERY JUST.

"IT REMAINS HOWEVER INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND INADMISSIBLE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS INTERVENED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA NOT GIVING ANY IMPORTANCE TO THE REACTIONS THAT WOULD RESULT.

"I MEAN THAT AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED IT HAS ALSO MADE A GROSS POLITICAL ERROR. AT A TIME THAT REQUIRED THE MASSIVE UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES, EVEN IN THE MOST REMOTE CORNERS OF THE EARTH, ONE IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OUT, ACTIONS THAT CAN PRODUCE THE OPPOSITE EFFECTS.

"Q. ONE WONDERS HOW SUCH AN ERROR WOULD COME ABOUT AND HOW IT IS POSSIBLE THAT IT IS MADE BY A COUNTRY THAT FOR 50 YEARS HAS BEEN ADVANCING HISTORY AND THE WORLD?

"A. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP GROUP, NEXT TO DEMOCRATIC INSTANCES AND INSTANCES OF RENEWAL, THERE SUBSIST AND AT TIMES PREVAIL (AS IS HAPPENING NOW) STALINIST INHERITANCES.

"THEY ARE CONSTITUTED BY FEAR, INTOLERANCE, BY ECONOMIC MOTIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE DESIRE FOR RENEWAL SPANG FIRST OF ALL FROM THE NEED TO RENEW THE NOVOTNY ECONOMY. AND IT IS TO THIS THAT THE SOVIETS PASSED THE VETO.

"FROM HERE DERIVED THE CLAIMS OF ANOTHER TYPE, THE REQUEST FOR DEMOCRATIZATION, THE NECESSITY FOR OPENINGS. EVIDENTLY THE SOVIET UNION IS ILL WITH BUREAUCRATISM, IT RISKS BEING CRYSTALIZED.

"AND IT IS NOT AWARE THAT THE FIRST DUTY OF A SOCIALIST COUNTRY, OF A COUNTRY THAT HAS THE MERIT OF HAVING INAUGURATED MODERN HISTORY, LIES PRECISELY IN THE CAPACITY TO MODIFY ITSELF AND MODIFY SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN SURPASSED.

"FOR THIS REASON, I HOPE THAT THE PRAGUE EVENTS WILL BE CONCLUDED WITH THE DEFEAT OF STALINISM AND WILL OPEN NEW PROSPECTS FOR FREEDOM FOR THE SOCIALIST WORLD, ALSO AND ABOVE ALL, FOR THE USSR.

"Q. FREEDOM IN WHAT SENSE?

"A. ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND POLITICAL FREEDOM: THAT IS THE TRUE SOCIALIST FREEDOM.

"NATURALLY THERE IS NO POINT SPEAKING OF THE SO-CALLED FREEDOMS EXISTING IN THE CAPITALISTIC SOCIETIES: THEY ARE PHANTOMS, FORMAL ENTITIES, EMPTY WORDS.

"TRUE FREEDOM, I REPEAT, IS FOUNDED ON ECONOMIC EQUALITY. THE SOVIET UNION WAS THE FIRST IN THE WORLD TO START ALONG THIS PATH. NOW IT IS NOT RPT NOT ALLOWED TO STOP.

"Q. IN THIS FERMENT THAT AGITATES AND CHARACTERIZES THE ENTIRE DEMOCRATIC AREA OF THE WORLD, WHAT DUTIES AND PRINCIPAL ROLES DO YOU ATTRIBUTE TO THE INTELLECTUAL?

"A. NATURALLY, THE INTELLECTUALS DO NOT MAKE POLICY IN THEIR CAPACITY AS INTELLECTUALS. BUT IN THE MEASURE IN WHICH IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE EVENTS, AND LIFE HISTORY, HISTORY, THEY HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE DUTY OF ATTEMPTING TO ANALYSE ANALYZE THE EVENTS, TO EXAMINE THE SITUATIONS FREELY, TO IDENTIFY IN THEM THEIR POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE PARTICULARITIES, TO DENOUNCE, TO SIFT, TO SPEAK, ALL WITHOUT HYPOCRISY AND WITHOUT A FALSE SENSE OF RESPECT.