

PARIS, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS)---FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER WALDECK ROCHET SAID TONIGHT THAT HE WAS IN "SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT" WITH THE SOVIET PARTY OVER THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE SOVIETS HAD MADE A "GRAVE ERROR" AND "ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM WERE DELIGHTED WITH SUCH A GODSEND".

INTERVIEWED BY RADIO LUXEMBOURG, THE FRENCH PARTY CHIEF SAID THE INVASION HAD BEEN A "PAINFUL SURPRISE" FOR THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS, SINCE AFTER THE CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA TALKS THEY HAD HAD THE RIGHT TO EXPECT THE DIFFICULTIES TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

ROCHET SAID THAT HIS PARTYS STATEMENT OF DISAPPROVAL FOR THE INVASION DID NOT RPT NOT MARK A CHANGE IN THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS POSITION OF PRINCIPLE. THE PARTY CONSIDERED IT FUNDAMENTAL THAT THERE BE RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EACH NATION AND FOR THE FREE DETERMINATION OF EACH PARTY. "WE ARE AGAINST ALL INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FRATERNAL PARTY."

ON THE MOSCOW TALKS, ROCHET SAID HE HOPED "ARDENTLY" THAT AN OVERALL AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED LIKELY TO PUT AN END TO "A DRAMATIC SITUATION". HE HOPED ALSO THAT SUCH AN ACCORD WOULD BE "DEFINITIVELY CONCLUDED AND CARRIED OUT". HE HOPED FINALLY THAT THE ACCORD WOULD "EFFECTIVELY RECOGNIZE" THE PRINCIPLE OF THE FREEDOM OF DETERMINATION OF EACH PARTY.

"THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY THIS PRINCIPLE RESOLUTELY AND TO DEFEND IT IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT."

ROCHET WAS ASKED WHETHER HE WAS "SAD" AT THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE REPLIED: "I WILL NOT HIDE THE FACT THAT THAT IT IS NOT WITHOUT BITTERNESS AND A CERTAIN RENDING THAT WE NOTE OUR SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION ON THE ISSUE OF THE MILITARY INTERVENTION." BUT HE SAID "WE CANNOT BE COUNTED UPON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANTISOVIET CAMPAIGN UNLEASHED BY THE ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM, DELIGHTED WITH SUCH A GODSEND."

THE PARTY WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR COHESION OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AND FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL PARTIES AND ESPECIALLY THE SOVIET PARTY. BUT IT WOULD ALSO DEFEND THE POSITIONS IT CONSIDERED CORRECT. "WE THINK THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS A GRAVE ERROR AND WE SAY SO."