

X/13 C/S - ARAGON FOR TOTAL FREEDOM OF PRESS

PARIS, AUG. 27 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS) --- A GROUP OF FRENCH LEFTWING WRITERS, INCLUDING POET-NOVELIST LOUIS ARAGON, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY, HAS CALLED IN THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER FOR "TOTAL" FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

ARAGON AND HIS RUSSIAN-BORN, NOVELIST WIFE, ELSA TRIOLET, ALSO A FRENCH PARTY MEMBER, WERE AMONG THE SIGNATORIES OF A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE LEFTIST NATIONAL WRITERS COMMITTEE AND PUBLISHED TODAY BY THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, L'HUMANITE.

THE STATEMENT SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD REACTED "WITH VIOLENCE" TO "THE MISFORTUNE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA INVADED BY FOREIGN ARMIES. WE ARE LIVING, WITH OUT CZECHOSLOVAK FRIENDS, ALL THE DISTRESSING MOMENTS OF THEIR COURAGEOUS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INVADER AND AGAINST ALL ATTEMPTS TO DEPRIVE THEIR COUNTRY OF THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN ALL ITS FORMS AND, IN THE FIRST PLACE, OF THAT ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF DEMOCRACY, A TOTAL FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

"WITHOUT SUCH A FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC OPINION, NO FREEDOM OF LITERARY , ARTISTIC OR SOCIOLOGICAL CREATION FOR THE KAFKAS, THE HASEKS, THE CAPEKS AND THE FUCIKS OF TOMORROW.

"AND NOTHING IS POSSIBLE UNLESS THE EXPCERCISE OF ITS FUNC-TIONS IS GIVEN BACK TO THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKIA FREELY CHOSE FOR ITSELF AND WITHOUT THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE CAN AT ANY MOMENT PROVOKE AN IRREPARABLE TRAGEDY."

BG/HE hr

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