

"WELL, WE WISH -- AND WE HAVE THE DUTY -- TO CONSIDER THIS ARGUMENT WITH GREAT ATTENTION, ALSO BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CPSU HAVE -- HISTORICALLY AND OBJECTIVELY -- A FUNCTION WHOSE DECISIVE IMPORTANCE CAN BE CONTESTED BY NO RPT NO ONE IN THE GREAT WORLD ENGAGEMENT AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND CAPITALISM, FOR PEACE, THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLES, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM.

"WE HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND THE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH FALLS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND ON THE CPSU IN THIS DECISIVE ENGAGEMENT AND, ALL TOGETHER, WE HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND THE VALUE OF THE UNEQUALLED EXPERIENCE OF THE CPSU.

"THERE ARE ALSO TO BE KEPT IN MIND THE PREOCCUPATIONS WHICH GUIDED THE LEADER COMRADES OF THE CPSU. JUST THE SAME WE WERE UNABLE TO AGREE (WITH THEM), IN FACT WE REPROVED, THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"WHAT HAPPENED, IN FACT, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA?

"IT HAPPENED THAT, WITH A LONG DELAY -- A GOOD TWELVE YEARS AFTER THE TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE CPSU-- THERE CAME INTO EFFECT IN THAT VERY CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY A TURNING POINT IN THE PARTY AND IN THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.

"SUCH A TURNING POINT WAS AND IS CONFORMING TO THE PROCESS OF RENEWAL WHICH WAS INITIATED BY THE TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE CPSU. SUCH A TURNING POINT DID AND DOES CORRESPOND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO THE INSPIRATION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LINE AND THE YALTA MEMORANDUM OF COMRADE TOGLIATTI.

"THOSE SAME COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT HAD OPENLY RECOGNIZED -- AND STILL DID IN THESE DAYS -- THE ERRORS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF COMRADE NOVOTNY AND OF THE OLD LEADERSHIP GROUP.

"THEY OPENLY RECOGNIZED -- AND THEY RECONFIRM THIS TODAY-- THAT THE ERRORS MUST BE CORRECTED. AGAIN TODAY THE CPSU AFFIRMS THAT, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THERE CAN BE NO RPT NO TURNING BACK FROM THE DECISIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY IN JANUARY.

"THIS IS, THEREFORE, A FIRM POINT ON WHICH THERE EXISTS GENERAL AGREEMENT. FROM SUCH A FIRM POSITION WE CAN AND WE MUST GO FORWARD. IN OTHER WORDS, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, UNDER THE OLD LEADERSHIP, EVER GRAVER CONTRADICTIONS AND AN UNTENABLE SITUATION HAD BEEN CREATED.

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