

C/S - SOVIET DIPLOMAT: NO TOEING THE LINE FOR CS.

LONDON AUG 28 REUTER - A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WENT ON NATIONWIDE TELEVISION IN BRITAIN LAST NIGHT TO DENY THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS BEING FORCED TO LINE UP WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT WISHES.

MR VLADILLEN VASEV, MINISTER-COUNSELLOR AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

ON THE SAME PROGRAMME - BBC'S NIGHTLY CURRENT AFFAIRS SHOW "24 HOURS" - A CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMAT DENIED THAT THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WAS A "SELLOUT" FOR HIS COUNTRY'S PEOPLE.

MR VASEV SAID: "NOBODY IS GOING TO MAKE ANYBODY TOE THE LINE.

"IT IS A MUTUAL AGREEMENT WHICH BOTH PARTIES HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO MAKE."

THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY'S PRESS ATTACHE MILAN GLOZAR SAID: "WE CANT TERM THE AGREEMENT AS A SELLOUT. THERE ARE SOME POSITIVE RESULTS.

"OUR LEADERS ARE BACK WITH US IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"THERE IS AN AGREEMENT ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES AND WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON OUR WAY TOWARDS SOCIALISM," HE ADDED.

MR VASEV ALSO DENIED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK REFORMIST LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK WAS EVER CALLED A FASCIST BY THE SOVIET UNION, BUT AGREED THERE HAD BEEN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF DUBCEK.

ASKED IF PART OF THE SOVIET-CZECHOSLOVAK AGREEMENT REFERRING TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS MEANT CENSORSHIP, HE SAID:

"NO, IT MEANS THAT COMMUNISM WOULD HAVE TO BE NOT IN THE HANDS OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS."

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