

"IN THIS SITUATION THERE WAS A FACT NOT RPT NOT ONLY POSITIVE BUT OF DECISIVE IMPORTANCE, THAT FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY ITSELF THERE CAME THE FORCES CAPABLE OF GIVING AN INITIATIVE TO THE NEW COURSE; THAT IT WAS THE STATUTORY LEADERSHIP ORGAN OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY -- THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ELECTED BY THE PRECEDING CONGRESS -- WHICH DECIDED THE CHANGE, WHICH TOOK INTO ITS HANDS THE INITIATIVE AND LEADERSHIP NEEDED, AND, HENCEFORTH, THE UNDEFERRABLE, DIFFICULT AND DELICATE PROCESS OF RENEWAL.

"WE SEE IN THIS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL AND DECISIVE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE CZECHOSLOVAK INCIDENTS AND THOSE WHICH WERE THE TRAGIC DEVELOPMENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1956 IN HUNGARY.

"IN THIS MANNER THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY -- DESPITE THE INEVITABLE CONTRASTS AND TENSIONS WITHIN IT -- MAINTAINED ITS UNITY THROUGHOUT THE EVENTS, FROM DECEMBER AND JANUARY LAST UNTIL TODAY.

"IT HAS ALSO INCREASED ITS PRESTIGE, ITS EFFECTIVE AND SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE, WITHIN THE WORKER CLASS AND AND WITH THE GREAT MASS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, IN THE WORKER MOVEMENT AND IN INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC OPINION.

"WE WELL KNOW, INDEED -- AND WE HOLD THAT IN THIS SITUATION IT WAS IN GREAT PART INEVITABLE -- THAT IN SUCH A PROCESS OF RENEWAL THERE WERE MANIFESTED AND INSERTED CONTRASTING AND CENTRIFUGAL FORCES OF VARIOUS KINDS.

"ON THE ONE HAND PERHAPS, MEN WHO WERE THE TORCHBEARERS OF POSITIONS OF 'MOST EXTREME RENEWAL', TENDING TOWARDS THE DEPRECIATION AND THE LIQUIDATION OF A WHOLE PATRIMONY OF THE PAST, AND --NOT RPT NOT WITHSTANDING THE ERRORS, EVEN SERIOUS -- WHO HAD A PATRIMONY LARGELY POSITIVE OF SOCIALIST CONQUEST AND A SOCIALIST FOREIGN POLICY OF STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR OPPRESSED PEOPLES IN THE WORLD, A PATRIMONY ACCUMULATED BY TENACITY, ABNEGATION, THE GENEROUS IMPETUS OF COMMUNISTS, OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK WORKING CLASS AND PEOPLE.

"IN THIS EXTREME POSITION THERE WERE ACCOMPANYING POSITIONS TENDING TOWARDS THE ABANDON OF CLASS AND SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES.

"ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE APPEARED, AS WAS INEVITABLE, THERE WAS THE PRESENCE OF THE PARTY AND OF THAT SAME CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF STRONG CONSERVATIVE TREND, TENDING TO RESIST THE THE NEW COURSE AND, IN PART, TO PREPARE TO TAKE UP PAST CONCEPTIONS AND METHODS.

"FINALLY, THERE WERE PRESENT POSITIONS AND ACTIVITIES HOSTILE TO SOCIALISM FROM NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL FORCES TIED TO IMPERIALISM.

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