

"THIS LINE WAS AIMED AT PROMOTING A FULL AND PROFOUND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRACY OF THE PARTY; IT WAS AIMED AT REALIZING AN EFFECTIVE AND EVER DEEPER UNITY OF THE PARTY, OF THE WORKER CLASS AND OF THE PEOPLE -- THROUGH ACTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION, THROUGH THE INITIATIVE AND WORKING AND CONVINCED CONSENSUS OF THE GREAT NUMBER OF ACTIVISTS, OF WORKERS, OF LABOURERS -- AROUND A POLITICAL LINE OF STRUGGLE AIMED AT THE FULL REALIZATION OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND OF COMMUNISM AND FOR THE VICTORY OF SOCIALISM IN THE WORLD.

"IT WAS AIMED AT AFFIRMING THE LEADERSHIP FUNCTION OF THE PARTY THROUGH THE CONTINUING GAIN OF INCREASING HEGEMONY, INCREASING INFLUENCE, INCREASING PRESTIGE AND, HENCE, THANKS TO THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNISTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS OF OF BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIALIST SOCIETY, AT THE SAME TIME, THROUGH THE POLITICAL AND IDEALISTIC STRUGGLE AGAINST POSITIONS HOSTILE TO SOCIALISM, OR AGAINST POSITIONS TENDING TO BEFOG AND PERVERT SOCIALIST CLASS PRINCIPLES, AND THE SUBSTANCE OF MARXISM.

"SUCH A LINE WE WERE AND ARE ESPECIALLY PREPARED TO UNDERSTAND AND TO SUPPORT, IN ITS GENERAL LINES, BECAUSE IT CORRESPONDS WITH ALL OUR LENINIST AND GRAMSCIANIST CONCEPTIONS AND DETAILED DEVELOPMENTS, CORRESPONDING TO THE TEACHING LEFT US BY COMRADE TOGLIATTI AND TO THE LINES OF HIS YALTA MEMORANDUM.

"FURTHERMORE, WE MUST SAY THAT WE REALIZE THE GRAVE DIFFICULTIES IN WHICH THE NEW LEADERSHIP GROUP OF THE CPC HAD TO WORK, WHICH HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN THE NEW COURSE.

"AT A MOMENT OF DEEP DETERIORATION AND CRISIS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION, AFTER LONG YEARS OF A PARTY AND POLITICAL REGIME, IN WHICH HAD PREVAILED AND HEAVILY OPPRESSED, AUTHORITARIAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE METHODS, AND IN WHICH, AFTER THE 20TH CONGRESS OF THE CPSU, THERE HAD NOT YET BEEN PUT ON FOOT A COURAGEOUS RENEW, CAPABLE OF FULLY FREEING THAT PARTY AND THAT STATE FROM THE WEIGHT AND THE SHADOW OF THE ERRORS AND SETBACKS OF THE PAST.

"THE NEW LEADERSHIP GROUP, HOWEVER, NEEDED TIME, PATIENCE, TENACITY TO COMBAT, ALSO, AND REABSORB THE TUMULTUOUS EXPLOSION -- WHICH OCCURRED, IT MAY BE SAID, IN FAIRLY LIMITED CONFINES -- OF ANARCHICAL ATTITUDES AND OF ERRORS.

"HOWEVER, WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE PERILS PRESENT IN THE NEW SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE QUESTIONS POSED WAS THAT OF THE MOST RIGHT AND EFFICIENT WAY IN WHICH TO COMBAT AND OVERCOME THEM.

"WE SAY WITH ALL FRANKNESS THAT THE METHOD OF CRITICISM, ATTACKS, MANIFESTATIONS OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE, EVEN PUBLICLY, AGAINST THE NEW LEADERSHIP GROUP OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY BY THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, PARTIES OF GREAT AUTHORITY, IN OUR OPINION COULD NOT YET BUT AGGRAVATE THE DIFFICULTIES AND THE PERILS.

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