

"IT COULD EVEN HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT THE BREAK UP OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, A BREAK UP WHICH, BY LUCK, DID NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE.

"IN ANY CASE, IT IS A FACT THAT IN ALL CONTACTS WE HAD WITH THE SOVIET COMRADES AND WITH THE OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES, IN ALL THE NEWS WE RECEIVED FROM THESE SAME SOVIET COMRADES, EVEN IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTIONS, IN ALL THE DOCUMENTS AND ALL THE ARTICLES PUBLISHED WE NEVER FORESAW, DESPITE CONTRARY AFFIRMATIONS, FACTS SUCH AS WOULD HAVE GIVEN SHAPE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO A SITUATION OF GRAVE AND IMMINENT PERIL FOR THE SOCIALIST REGIME. AND THIS NEITHER BEFORE NOR AFTER THE MEETINGS AT CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA.

"WE SAW ONLY THE MANIFESTATION, BY SOME GROUPS, OF POSITIONS WHICH WERE NOT RIGHT AND WHICH WERE TO BE FOUGHT. IT WAS, MOREOVER, OUR CONVICTION THAT IN ANY CASE IT BEHOVED THE PARTY AND LEADERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATE TO FACE UP TO INSIDIOUS (ACTS) AND TO POSSIBLE SUBVERSIVE AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY THREATS, (IT WAS) THEIR DUTY TO DEFEND THE BASIC CHOICE OF SOCIALISM AND ITS ALLIANCES.

"BEHIND OUR STAND THERE WAS, FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE, CONFIDENCE IN THE WILL AND CAPACITY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND ITS LEADERSHIP ORGANS TO GUIDE CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON THE ROAD TO RENEWAL AND CONSOLIDATION OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF COLLABORATION AND ALLIANCE WITH THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

"THUS, WHEN THERE CAME ABOUT A TAKING OF NETLY CONTRASTING POSITIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNIST PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, ON THE ONE HAND, AND ON THE OTHER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WE HAD THE FIRM CONVICTION THAT THE OVERCOMING OF SUCH DIVERGENCIES OF JUDGEMENT AND LINE SHOULD BE SOUGHT BY MEANS OF DISCUSSION AND POLITICAL CONFRONTATION.

"FOR THAT REASON WE WELCOMED THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS OF THE CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA MEETINGS. WE SAW IN THEM AN EXPRESSION OF THE WISH TO SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS ARISEN BETWEEN THE FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD AFFIRM THE AUTONOMY AND THE LIBERTY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT, IN DETERMINING THE WAY OF DEVELOPING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY AND CREATING A MORE SOLID PREMISE FOR GUARANTEEING THE UNITY AND COMMON INTEREST OF THE BASIC POLITICAL OBJECTIVES OF ALL THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES."

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