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C/S - CHURCHES URGE TROOP WITHDRAWAL

GENEVA, AUG 28 (UPI) - THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CALLED ON THE SOVIET UNION TODAY TO REMOVE ALL ITS TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST ITS ALLIES.

REPRESENTING 200 PROTESTANT, ANGLICAN AND ORTHODOX CHURCHES IN 80 COUNTRIES, THE COUNCIL VOICED SUPPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THEIR "PEACEFUL RESISTANCE TO THE REIMPOSITION OF SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL CONTROLS."

THE STATEMENT WAS SIGNED BY COUNCIL GENERAL SECRETARY EUGENE CARSON BLAKE OF AMERICA, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE THOMAS OF BANGALORE, INDIA, AND COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS PAULINE WEBB OF LONDON.

"WE DEPLORE THE MILITARY INTERVENTION INTO THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, A SMALL ALLIED FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING STATE, BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE USSR, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA," THE STATEMENT SAID.

"WE APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR TO RECONSIDER THE POLICY WHICH DICTATED THE MILITARY INTERVENTION, TO REMOVE ALL ITS TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, AND TO RENOUNCE THE USE OF FORCE OR ITS THREAT UPON ITS ALLIES," IT SAID.

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