

IN HIS BROADCAST YESTERDAY PRESIDENT SVOBODA STRESSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NOT RETREAT BY A SINGLE STEP" FROM THEIR AIMS OF DEVELOPING THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM AND ITS HUMANIST DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER, AS EXPRESSED IN THE PARTYS ACTION PROGRAMME.

THIS IS ALSO A PROFOUNDLY SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME OF THE TALKS.

IT WOULD BE USELESS TO PRETEND THAT THERE WILL NOT BE VERY GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN THE DAYS AHEAD. THE JOB OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS HAS BEEN MADE HARDER BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK, AND, AS PRESIDENT SVOBODA SAID, "PAINFUL SORES" WILL REMAIN FOR A LONG TIME.

TRUE, CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST LEADERS ENJOY GREATER POPULAR SUPPORT AMONG THE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE. BUT THEY FACE FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS.

THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO PUT RIGHT THE GRIEVOUS MISTAKES AND CRIMES OF A PREVIOUS PERIOD BY WINNING THE CONFIDENCE AND SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE NEW POLICY.

THIS TASK OF EXTENDING SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY WITHOUT GIVING THE ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN THEMSELVES IS A COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT ONE.

THE OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE HAS ADDED NEW DIFFICULTIES TO THOSE WHICH ALREADY EXISTED.

THE WAY IN WHICH CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS, IN THE RECENT CRITICAL DAYS, HAVE MAINTAINED THEIR UNITY, STOOD FIRMLY FOR THEIR PRINCIPLES, AND HELPED TO PREVENT THE EXACERBATION OF AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION, GIVES GROUND FOR CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS BEFORE THEM.

THEY WILL MORE THAN EVER NEED FRATERNAL SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FROM COMMUNISTS EVERYWHERE, IN THE CAPITALIST AS WELL AS THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

BRITISH COMMUNISTS HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SOLIDARITY AND HAVE STRESSED THAT THEY INTEND TO WORK FOR THE CLOSEST FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED CALLS FOR GREATER EFFORTS TO RESTORE, ON THE BASIS OF THE AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EACH PARTY, THE UNITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, TO STEP UP THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPERIALISM, AND GIVE GREATER SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

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