

X/13 CS -- MOLLET: FRENCH CP STAND INADEQUATE

PARIS, AUG 28 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS)---FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER GUY MOLLET SAID TODAY THAT THE FRENCH COMMUNIST CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS "VERY IMPORTANT" BUT STILL NOT ENOUGH TO REMOVE ALL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RADIO MONTE CARLO, THE EX-PREMIER SAID THE SOVIET ATTACK HAD BEEN "A VERY IMPORTANT TEST OF ALL THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT FREEDOM". IF THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS HAD APPROVED THE SOVIET ACTION, "THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF ALL HOPE OF EVOLUTION ON THEIR PART AND AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE RUPTURE" WITH THE SOCIALISTS.

BUT THEY HAD CONDEMNED THE INVASION AND MOLLET SAID THIS WAS "A VERY IMPORTANT NEW FACT AND I AM SORRY TO SEE THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE MINIMIZING IT."

THE SOCIALIST LEADER SAID: "AFTER ALL, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN 50 YEARS THAT THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS HAVE STOPPED AGREEING WITH EVERY DECISION TAKEN IN MOSCOW. EVEN IN THE STILL BLOODIER HOURS OF BUDAPEST, THEY DID NOT DISAPPROVE... THEY APPROVED AND JUSTIFIED THE EVENT..."

BUT MOLLET SAID IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ASSUME THAT ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS HAD NOW BECOME SIMPLE, THAT ALL DIFFICULTIES WERE REMOVED.

"THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY...CONDEMNS THE FOREIGN INTERVENTION. IT STATES THE RIGHT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS TO DEFINE THEIR OWN POLICY WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE. THAT IS GOOD. BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH..."

"IF IT DECIDED TO GO VERY MUCH FARTHER IN FRANCE THAN DUBCEK, CERNIK AND THEIR FRIENDS INTENDED TO GO THEMSELVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA --- LET US SAY THAT THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO ENVISAGE RAPPROCHEMENTS FOR TOMORROW. BUT IT DOES NOT YET CONCRETIZE SUCH RAPPROCHEMENTS."

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