

CN 97

X/13 C/S - LABOUR MPS DEMAND WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS AT ONCE

LONDON, AUGUST 29--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--A GROUP OF LEFT-WING LABOUR MPS YESTERDAY TELEXED A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF PRAVDA, THE SOVIET PARTY PAPER, CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF SOVIET TROOPS.

THE 19 MPS SIGNING THE LETTER INCLUDED MICHAEL FOOT, IAN MIKARDO AND HUGH JENKINS.

THEY TOLD PRAVDA THAT DESPITE A LETTER OF EXPLANATION FROM THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR THEY WERE TOTALLY UNCONVINCED THAT THERE IS ANY DANGER OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA "ABANDONING HER ALLIANCES AND TAKING THE CAPITALIST ROAD".

THE LETTER APPEALED TO RUSSIA "WHOSE PEOPLE HAVE THE MOST TRAGIC MEMORIES OF INVASION BY A FOREIGN ARMY, TO LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO WORK OUT ITS OWN DESTINY".

"WE HAVE ALWAYS AFFIRMED THE RIGHT OF EACH NATION TO DETERMINE ITS OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM OTHER STATES," THE LETTER SAID.

THE GROUP OF MPS SAID THEY ~~HE~~ CONDEMNED AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM AND WENT ON:

"IN THE SAME WAY WE CONDEMN THE SOVIET UNIONS' DIRECT INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE MPS POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAVE URGED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE ODER-NEISSE LINE, TO DECLARE THE MUNICH AGREEMENT VOID AND TO WITHDRAW BRITISH TROOPS FROM GERMANY "AS PART OF A PLANNED WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM CENTRAL EUROPE".

MA/HE

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