

CN 101
X/13 C/S -- MORNING STAR BALANCES LETTERS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

LONDON, AUGUST 29 (RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER MORNING STAR TODAY PUBLISHES SEVEN MORE LETTERS FROM ITS READERS ON THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CONTINUED TO STRIKE A CAREFUL BALANCE BETWEEN THOSE OPPOSING IT AND THOSE DECLARING SUPPORT.

FOUR OF TODAY'S PUBLISHED LETTERS CONDEMN THE INVASION AND THREE JUSTIFY IT. SINCE THE PAPER BEGAN PUBLISHING LETTERS ON THE ISSUE MONDAY, A TOTAL OF 26 HAVE APPEARED IN ITS COLUMNS-- 13 FOR AND 13 AGAINST.

THE STAR HAS NOT RPT NOT SAID HOW MANY LETTERS IT HAS RECEIVED IN ALL OR WHAT PROPORTION OPPOSE THE INVASION, BUT A PARTY OFFICIAL WAS QUOTED EARLIER THIS WEEK AS SAYING THAT SOME 80 PER CENT OF THE MESSAGES THE PARTY HAD RECEIVED SINCE IT DECLARED ITS OWN OPPOSITION TO THE SOVIET ACTION WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS DECLARATION.

IN TODAY'S MORNING STAR, ROY GORE SAYS HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM TWO MONTHS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND "EVERYTHING I SAW AND HEARD CONVINCES ME THAT THE ACTION OF THE SOVIET FORCES AND THEIR ALLIES WAS UNNECESSARY, UNJUSTIFIABLE, UNJUSTIFIED AND WRONG, AND CAN ONLY CAUSE GREAT HARM TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM."

READER PETER KERRIGAN SAYS "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PARTY HAD EITHER LOST CONTROL OR WERE ADOPTING A COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COURSE" AND BOB SPROTT SAYS THERE IS A TREMENDOUS FEELING OF RAPID CHANGE SWEEPING THE WORLD. "TO ATTEMPT TO STIFLE THIS WITH TANKS AND GUNS IS TO DENY MARXISM AND THE MARCH OF HISTORY."

SUPPORTING THE INVASION, ALAN BUSH SAYS HE HAS LIVED AND WORKED IN A NUMBER OF THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AND "I HAVE BECOME AWARE THAT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY IS CEASELESSLY ORGANIZED ON ALL THOSE COUNTRIES, EXCEPT PERHAPS BULGARIA."

ERNIE POUNTNEY WRITES "IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THIS TIME THE RUSSIANS HAVE FORESTALLED THE LONG-PREPARED CAPITALIST PLANS FOR A PUTSCH IN A KEY CENTER--HENCE THE OUTCRY OF THAT HYPOCRITE JOHNSON."

AND MRS. RUTH LUDLOW FEELS THE BRITISH PARTY HAS BEEN TOO HASTY IN CONDEMNING THE INVASION SINCE "SURELY IT IS CLEAR THAT EVENTS WILL PROVE WHETHER THE ENTRY OF TROOPS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS JUSTIFIED OR NOT."

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