

PARIS, AUG 29 (RFE SPECIAL/EDWARDS)---IN A NEW CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY TODAY REJECTED MOSCOWS ARGUMENTS JUSTIFYING THE INTERVENTION.

THE PARTY WEEKLY, "FRANCE NOUVELLE", IN AN ARTICLE SIGNED BY POLITBURO MEMBER FRANCOIS BILLOUX, SAID ITS ATTACK HAD DRAWN AN EXPRESSION OF SURPRISE AND DISAPPROVAL FROM THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS FOR TWO REASONS.

"SURPRISE, BECAUSE NO IMPORTANT NEW NEGATIVE FACT OF A NATURE TO MOTIVATE SUCH AN INTERVENTION HAD ARISEN IN THE 17 DAYS SINCE THE BRATISLAVA CONFERENCE.

"DISAPPROVAL, BECAUSE THIS INTERVENTION IS IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RELATIONS AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES."

BILLOUX SAID FRENCH PARTY CHIEF WALDECK ROCHET HAD SPOKEN TO ALEXANDER DUBCEK, DURING HIS JULY VISIT TO PRAGUE, OF THE FRENCH PARTYS "PREOCCUPATIONS" WITH THE FACT THAT "SOME ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO SOCIALISM SOUGHT TO UTILIZE FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT THE MEASURES OF DEMOCRATIZATION".

"ACCORDING TO BILLOUX, THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS CONSIDERED THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE ELEMENTS "WERE NOT MEETING THE NECESSARY POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL RIPOSTE."

BUT BILLOUX ADDED: "THERE IS A MARGIN BETWEEN THESE NEGATIVE ASPECTS AND A COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION."

THE FRENCH PARTY CONSIDERED THAT "THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS A SERIOUS MISTAKE. WE SAID SO."

NOW, BILLOUX SAID, THE MOSCOW ACCORDS HAD "OPENED A NEW PAGE ON WHICH WE ARE CONVINCED WILL BE WRITTEN NEW SUCCESSES FOR THE CAUSE OF DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND SOCIALISM IN THE WORLD. FOR ITS PART, THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY WILL CONTRIBUTE WITH ALL ITS STRENGTH TO EXPLAINING AND SUPPORTING THE DECISIONS TAKEN TOGETHER BY THE SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK COMRADES."

A SECOND ARTICLE IN "FRANCE NOUVELLE" ALSO CHALLENGED THE SOVIET EXPLANATIONS FOR THE INVASION. IT ASKED: "WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE BRATISLAVA CONFERENCE AND THE MILITARY INTERVENTION? WERE THERE NEW FACTS MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SITUATION HAD DETERIORATED, TO SUCH A POINT AS TO QUALIFY IT AS PRESENTING A REAL, COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY DANGER, LIKE HUNGARY IN 1956?

THE EXPLANATIONS FURNISHED BY THE TASS STATEMENT OF AUGUST 21 AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THE LONG PRAVDA ARTICLE OF AUGUST 22...TOOK UP AGAIN THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF THE WARSAW LETTER...

"NOTHING IN THESE MOTIVATIONS, GIVEN AFTER THE EVENT, COULD JUSTIFY THE PENETRATION ON THE WHOLE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY OF THE TROOPS OF THE FIVE WARSAW PACT MEMBERSM

"IN NO WAY COULD THE INTERNAL EVOLUTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 17 DAYS AFTER BRATISLAVA, BE COMPARED WITH THE EVENTS WHICH PERMITTED THE CORRECT INTERVENTION WHICH OUR PARTY FULLY SUPPORTED IN 1956 IN HUNGARY...

"THERE WAS NOTHING COMPARABLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ALTHOUGH THE AGITATION OF ANTISOCIALIST AND REACTIONARY ELEMENTS COULD NOT FAIL TO CREATE LEGITIMATE CONCERN."

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