

BRITISH UNIONS CONDEMN OCCUPATION

BLACKPOOL, ENGLAND AUGUST 30--(RFE SPECIAL/KW)--THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS, WHICH LAST WEEK WITHDREW AN INVITATION TO SOVIET TRADES UNION LEADERS TO ATTEND ITS CENTENARY CONGRESS NEXT WEEK, TODAY CONDEMNED THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IN A STATEMENT TODAY, THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL SAID: "EVENTS SINCE THE INVASION HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE TROOPS OF THE INVADING COUNTRIES ARE BEING RETAINED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AGAINST THE WILL OF THE WHOLE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE. . .

"THE GENERAL COUNCIL DEMANDS THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE INVADING FORCES, AND CONDEMNS BOTH THE MEANS BY WHICH THE AGREEMENT WAS OBTAINED AND THE TERMS WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND NATION."

BRITISH-USSR ASSOCIATION CONDEMNATION

LONDON AUGUST 30--(RFE SPECIAL/KW)--THE GREAT BRITAIN-U.S.S.R. ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS FORMER PRIME MINISTER HAROLD MACMILLAN AS ITS PRESIDENT, HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT HERE DEPLORING THE SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT NATIONS OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IT SAYS IT CONSTITUTES A THREAT TO THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATION, A SETBACK TO THE HOPEFUL PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN MADE TOWARDS A GENUINE DETENTE IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND A GRAVE OBSTACLE TO THE ASSOCIATIONS CENTRAL PURPOSE.

THE STATEMENT SAYS THE ASSOCIATION -- WHOSE AIM IS TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE U.S.S.R. -- "SHARES TO THE FULL IN THE WORLD-WIDE SHOCK AND DISMAY" CREATED BY THE ACTION, WHICH CONTRAVENES THE U.N. CHARTER "AND THE DECLARED WISHES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE."

RUSSIANS TURN BACK BRITISH YOUTH GROUP

LONDON, AUGUST 30 - (RFE SPECIAL/HOOD) - A SPOKESMAN FOR THE BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL SAID TODAY THAT RUSSIAN TROOPS AT THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER HAVE TURNED BACK ITS DELEGATION WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO CONFER WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION IN PRAGUE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE DELEGATION TRIED TWICE YESTERDAY TO CROSS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM WEST GERMANY. IT IS EXPECTED BACK HERE NEXT MONDAY.

THE DELEGATION, LED BY THE COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, KEITH STEVENS, HAD BEEN INVITED BEFORE THE RUSSIAN INVASION TO MEET ITS CZECHOSLOVAK EQUIVALENT TO DISCUSS A NEW LIBERAL STRUCTURE FOR THE LATTER AND EXCHANGE VISITS.

BG/MA/E/U

1748/68
RT K