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(USEFUL CAO)

X/13 CS -- MORNING STAR EDITORIAL ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LONDON AUGUST 31--(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER MORNING STAR SAYS TODAY THAT THE SOONER THE OCCUPYING TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA "THE SOONER WILL THE BEST CONDITIONS BE CREATED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR THE BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OF SOCIALISM. . ."

THE PAPER SAYS IN AN EDITORIAL THAT BRITISH COMMUNISTS URGE THIS WITHDRAWAL "BECAUSE IT WOULD GREATLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNITY AND THE COOPERATION OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR EQUALITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE AND THEREFORE THEIR UNITY."

THE EDITORIAL SAYS THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS, WORKING IN "APPALLINGLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES" TRIED TO REACH THE BEST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE IN MOSCOW AND ACHIEVED "IMPORTANT RESULTS."

IT SAYS "THERE IS BOUND TO BE GREAT BITTERNESS ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED AMONG THE PEOPLE" BUT THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS CONTINUE TO RELY ON THEM.

THE TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL:

IN THE SPEECHES WHICH THEY HAVE MADE TO THEIR PEOPLE SINCE THE END OF THE MOSCOW TALKS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE EXPLAINED WHY THEY AGREED TO THE COMPROMISE REACHED THERE.

MILITARY INTERVENTION ON A VERY BIG SCALE HAD TAKEN PLACE AGAINST THEIR WISHES.

THEY THEMSELVES WERE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK AS THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT. AS MR SMRKOVSKY, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SAID IN HIS BROADCAST, THEIR CONTACTS WITH HOME WERE VERY LIMITED, AND THEY HAD ALMOST NO INFORMATION.

HE REFERRED ONLY INDIRECTLY TO WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AFTER THE ENTRY OF THE TROOPS, SAYING THAT IT WAS "TOO DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL A SUBJECT."

IN THESE APPALLINGLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES THEY TRIED TO REACH THE BEST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE, KNOWING THAT, IN THE WORDS OF MR SMRKOVSKY, "THE DECISION COULD NOT BE REGARDED BY THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY AND BY HISTORY AS ACCEPTABLE, BUT AS A BETRAYAL."

IN THE EVENT, IMPORTANT RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED. THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT AND LEADERSHIP RETURNED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK.

THEY HAVE DECLARED THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRATISATION DECIDED BY THE JANUARY AND MAY MEETINGS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AND THE SOVIET SIDE DECLARED SUPPORT FOR THIS POLICY.

AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED IN PRINCIPLE ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS HAVE SAID THEY WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE "EXCEPTIONAL MEASURES" IN CONTROLLING PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION.

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