

C/S - TANJUG SAYS C/S JOURNALISTS STOP CRITICISM

MUNICH, AUG. 31 (CMD)- THE YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY TANJUG SAID TODAY, IN A DISPATCH FROM PRAGUE, THAT CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALISTS NO LONGER PUBLISH ANYTHING "THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS AN INSULT OR CRITICISM OF THE COUNTRIES WHOSE ARMIES HAVE ENTERED CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE TANJUG DISPATCH:

COMPETENT CZECHOSLOVAK BODIES ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE ASKED THE FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WITH TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR A CONSISTENT BILATERAL OBSERVATION OF THE MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK-SOVIET TALKS.

IT WILL BE NOTED THAT THE DOCUMENT AND THE PROTOCOL ATTACHED TO IT, HAVE POSED CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR NORMALIZING THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY. THE COMPETENT BODIES, STARTING FROM THE GOVERNMENT, HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED THE REALIZATION OF THAT DOCUMENT BY, FOR INSTANCE, INTRODUCING CONTROL OVER THE PRESS, BUT IT ALSO INCLUDES COMMITMENTS ON THE OTHER SIDE, SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FIRST FROM THE POPULATED AREAS, AND ALSO IN REGARD TO THE WRITING OF THE PRESS ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

HOWEVER, THE PRESS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CONTINUES TO INSIST VERY STRONGLY ON MATTERS WHICH THE MOSCOW UNDERSTANDING DOES NOT RECOGNIZE. THUS RUDE PRAVO WRITES TODAY THAT BERLINER ZEITUNG, OTECHESTVEN FRONT OF SOFIA, ZYCIE WARSZAWY AND SOME OTHER NEWSPAPERS STILL WRITE ABOUT COUNTERREVOLUTION, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ALTHOUGH THE MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT SPEAK OF ANY COUNTERREVOLUTION. THERE ARE ALSO PROTESTS IN PRAGUE AGAINST THE PERSISTENT REPETITION OF UNTRUTHS IN EAST EUROPEAN PRESS THAT THE WARSAW PACT FORCES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY CZECHOSLOVAK STATE AND POLITICAL FUNCTIONARIES.

THIS KIND OF WRITING, UNDERLINES RUDE PRAVO, CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS ANYTHING BUT THE SPREADING OF TENDENTIOUS, FALSE INFORMATION, WHICH MAY ONLY CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS AGGRAVATING THE SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY AND WORSEN RELATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

ALREADY SINCE YESTERDAY, CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALISTS DO NOT PUBLISH ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS INSULT OR CRITICISM OF THE COUNTRIES WHOSE ARMIES HAVE ENTERED CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THEY DO NOT EVEN CARRY THOSE ASSESSMENTS OR REACTIONS TO CZECHOSLOVAK DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD WHICH MIGHT BE SO INTERPRETED.

(TANJUG IN ENGLISH, AUG 31, 1968) N
REN/WD/E 1655/68