

CN 103

X/4 /9 CS -- TRYBUNA LUDU CRITICISES CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS

WARSAW, SEPT. 1 (CMD) -- THE POLISH COMMUNIST PARTY

NEWSPAPER TRYBUNA LUDU SAID TODAY THAT CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS COVERAGE OF THE JANUARY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING WHICH OUSTED FORMER PARTY LEADER ANTONIN NOVOTNY WAS "ONE-SIDED, TENDENTIOUS AND SMACKING OF SENSATION."

THE COMMENT WAS CONTAINED IN A SHARP CRITICISM OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS SINCE JANUARY.

AN EXCERPT OF THE ARTICLE CARRIED BY PAP SAID:

"THE ROLE PLAYED IN RECENT MONTHS BY NUMEROUS MASS COMMUNICATION MEDIA IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY. WHAT CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALISTS CALLED A POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF VARIOUS TENDENCIES WAS IN FACT A POLITICAL ATTACK ON SOCIALISM, ON PARTY LEADERS, ON THE LEADING ROLE OF THE PARTY.

"SOUND FORCES IN THE PARTY POINTED TO THE DANGER ENSUING FROM THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS. THEY ASSESSED THE PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE C.P.C. CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR AND JANUARY THIS YEAR AS ONE-SIDED, TENDENTIOUS AND SMACKING OF SENSATION.

"ONE COULD EXPECT THAT THESE VOICES WOULD YIELD RESULTS AND THAT HOSTILE AND REVISIONIST FORCES, - IN LINE WITH THE RULES OF EVERY POLITICAL STRUGGLE, UNAVOIDABLE IN THE PERIODS OF POLITICAL REFORMS, WILL NOT HAVE CHANCES TO EXPAND FURTHER THE PLATFORM OF THEIR ACTIVITY."

"BUT A MACHINERY ONCE PUT INTO MOTION WAS MOVING ON. THE LAST BARRIER WAS REMOVED. THE CENSORSHIP WAS ABOLISHED. JOURNALISTS WERE RESPONSIBLE BEFORE THEMSELVES ONLY FOR WHAT THEY WERE WRITING.

"SOME OF THEM UNDERSTOOD THIS RESPONSIBILITY IN A PECULIAR WAY. THE NEXT DAY AFTER THE LAW ON PRESS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED THE LEADING PRAGUE PAPERS PUBLISHED THE APPEAL "TWO THOUSAND WORDS", OPENLY CALLING FOR A STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISTS, FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTION."

PAP SEPT 1/68

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