

CN 56

CS - AFTERNOON INTRO - SOVIET COMMENTS

MOSCOW, (UPI/REUTER) - THE SOVIETS TOLD CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S NEW COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP TODAY THEIR COUNTRY'S FUTURE "LIES ONLY IN MARCHING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION."

THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER PRAVDA DID NOT CARRY A REPORT ON THE ENLARGED CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDUM OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK, NAMED ON SUNDAY, ALTHOUGH IT DID MENTION THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM.

PRAVDA TODAY SAID FROM PRAGUE ONLY THAT THE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT "ARE TAKING URGENT STEPS TO ADJUST NORMAL LIFE" AND STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

ITS REPORTS POINTED OUT SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH THE SOVIETS FELT SUCH "URGENT STEPS" ARE NEEDED. BOTH DISSIDENT WRITERS AND ADVOCATES OF WESTERN ECONOMIC TIES WERE CALLED "IMMATURE AT BEST, AND POSSIBLY TRAITORS."

WESTERN "IMPERIALISTS" AND "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" INSIDE THE COUNTRY CONTINUED TO SPREAD "RUMORS" IN AN ATTEMPT TO CAUSE DISSENSION AND CHAOS, PRAVDA SAID.

IT QUOTED THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES AS DENYING THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD ARRESTS, AS REPORTED BY CLANDESTINE BROADCASTS.

"INSULTING INSCRIPTIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN REMOVED FROM BUILDINGS" IN CENTRAL PRAGUE, AND OTHER "OPENLY HOSTILE ATTACKS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION" WERE STILL IN EVIDENCE, THE SOVIETS NOTED.

(MORE)

JON/A *hmk* 1222/68 SEPT 2