

X/13 C/S -- BRITISH TRADE UNIONS REMINDED OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BLACKPOOL, ENGLAND, SEPT. 2 (RFE SPECIAL/WELLS) - THE CENTENARY OF THE BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS OPENED TODAY AND HEARD REFERENCES TO THE WARSAW PACT POWERS INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

DELEGATES REPRESENTING NEARLY NINE MILLION BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS WHO HAVE GATHERED IN THE BRITISH RESORT OF BLACKPOOL HEARD GUEST REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU), THE FRENCH CONFEDERATION FORCE OUVRIERE, THE ITALIAN CONFEDERAZIONE ITALIANA SINDICATI LAVORATORI, THE ISRAELI HISTRADUT AND TURK-IS, THE TURKISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, CONDEMN THE INVASION AND EXPRESS THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH CZECHOSLOVAK WORKERS.

HARM BUITER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ICFTU, TOLD THE CONGRESS WE CANNOT TOLERATE FREE TRADE UNIONS BEING SUPPRESSED RIGHT AND LEFT, THE MOST ELEMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS OF WHOLE NATIONS BEING TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT BY JACK-BOOKED DICTATORS.

THERE ARRIVE CRUCIAL MOMENTS IN HUMAN HISTORY WHEN ALL FREE MEN MUST CRY HOLD, ENOUGH. SUCH A MOMENT CAME TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN THE ARMED FORCES OF SOVIET RUSSIA AND HER SATELLITES POURED OVER THE CZECH FRONTIERS FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF OVERTURNING THE COUNTRYS LEGAL GOVERNMENT AND SETTING UP AN OBEDIENT PUPPET REGIME IN ITS PLACE.

UNLESS WE CAN STOP THIS KIND OF THING, UNLESS WE CAN ESTABLISH PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON A FIRMER BASIS, THEN THE OUTLOOK FOR FREE TRADE UNIONISM IN THE WORLD IS INDEED BLEAK, BUITER SAID.

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