

GENEVA, SEPT. 2 (RFE SPECIAL/MAHONEY) -- A CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET WRITER CLASHED SHARPLY IN A SWISS TELEVISION DISCUSSION LAST NIGHT OVER THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

LUDVIK VESELY, FORMER EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PAPER "LITERARNI LISTY" WAS ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THE TELEVISION PROGRAM AS A REPLACEMENT FOR A CZECHOSLOVAK PROFESSOR WHO WAS UNABLE TO LEAVE HIS COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE.

OPPOSING HIM IN THE DISCUSSION WAS SOVIET CORRESPONDENT VLADIMIR LOMEIKO.

LOMEIKO ARGUED THAT THE SOVIET INVASION WAS NOT "AN OCCUPATION IN THE CAPITALIST-IMPERIALISTIC SENSE, BUT A PROVISIONAL DEFENSE OF SOCIALISM."

MR. LOMEIKO, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE SOVIET AGENCY "'NOVOSTI'", ADMITTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AT LEAST 33 CZECHOSLOVAK CIVILIANS KILLED AND THAT 450 OTHERS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HE SAID THIS WAS REGRETTABLE BUT HE ADDED:

"WE DID NOT WISH THIS. THERE WERE PROVOCATEURS WHO PUSHED PEOPLE ONTO THE STREETS SO THAT THEY WERE RUN DOWN BY TANKS. TO AVOID HITTING SUCH PEOPLE OUR SOLDIERS WERE FORCED TO MAKE SHARP EVASIVE TURNS. THIS ALSO CAUSED DOZENS OF DEATHS ON OUR SIDE."

MR. VESELY THEN ASKED WHY THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT WISH CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO DEVELOP ITS OWN SYSTEM OF COMMUNISM.

MR. LOMEIKO: "'WHO SAID THAT WE DID NOT WISH THIS?'"

MR. VESELY: "'YOU DONT START A POLITICYL DISCUSSION BY OCCUPYING A COUNTRY.'"

MR. LOMEIKO: "' THIS DOES NOT AMOUNT TO AN OCCUPATION IN THE CAPITALIST-IMPERIALIST SENSE. IT IS MORE A PROVISIONARY DEFENSE OF SOCIALISM.'"

MR. VESELY: "'IF YOU INTERPRET THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA LIKE THIS, I AM OBLIGED TO REPLY TO YOU THAT IT IS IN THIS FASHION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DEFENDED CAPITALISM IN VIETNAM.'"

MR. LOMEIKO: "'THAT IS A COMPARISON IN WHICH THERE IS NO COMMON POINT.'"

MR. VESELY: "'YOU HAVE JUST SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION DEFENDS COMMUNISM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WHERE DO YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE?'"

MR. LOMEIKO: "'THE UNITED STATES HAVE THEIR MANNER OF DEFENDING CAPITALISM. THEY SHOOT AND THEY BOMBARD.'"

MR. VESELY: "' AND WHAT HAS THE SOVIET UNION DONE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IN HUNGARY.?'"

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