

CN 24

C/S -- KONIEV RECALLS WORLD WAR ROLES
(CLEAR ATTRIBUTION ONLY) (AMPLIFIES CN 150 OF 2/9)

MOSCOW, SEPT. 3 (UPI)-THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT EVENING NEWSPAPER IZVESTIA LAST NIGHT CARRIED FRONT-PAGE PRAISE OF PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA AND PARTY CHIEF ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

MARSHAL IVAN KONIEV, LIBERATOR OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN WORLD WAR TWO, PRAISED SVOBODA AS "A BRAVE , SELF-CONTROLLED OFFICER" AND DUBCEK AS "A FIGHTING SOLDIER," IN A PAGE ONE ARTICLE.

SVOBODA'S CZECH CORPS, ATTACHED TO KONIEV'S ARMY DURING THE BATTLE FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, "FOUGHT COURAGEOUSLY . SVOBODA PERSONALLY LED THEM, RISKING HIS LIFE IN THE VANGUARD," KONIEV WROTE.

"THINK ABOUT THAT, YOUNG PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND APPRECIATE THE HEROIC DEEDS OF YOUR FELLOW-CITIZEN, GENERAL AND PRESIDENT."

DUBCEK, HE SAID, WAS REPUTED "A FIGHTING SOLDIER" WITH THE SLOVAK PARTISAN FORCES WITH WHOM NEW SLOVAK PARTY FIRST SECRETARY GUSTAF HUSAK --A DUBCEK LIBERAL--ALSO FOUGHT.

"THE CZECH COMRADES PROVED THEMSELVES IN THOSE BATTLES TO BE REAL SOLDIERS," KONIEV SAID. "DO THOSE WHO WERE PAINTING FASCIST SWASTIKAS ON OUR (RED) STARS IN PRAGUE REMEMBER THAT?"

KONIEV , REFERRING TO THOSE KILLED IN THE WORLD WAR TWO CAPTURE OF PRAGUE, ASKED "DO YOU THINK THEY WANTED TO DIE IN THE LAST DAYS OF THAT LONG AND BITTER WAR?"

KONIEV MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE NAZI ATTEMPTS TO WIPE OUT RESISTANCE FORCES IN PRAGUE IN EARLY MAY, 1944, WHEN HE SENT HIS FORCES INTO THE CITY. "LET IT BE KNOWN OUR SOLDIERS, OUR TANKS DID NOT LET THE STREETS OF PRAGUE FLOW WITH BLOOD (OF THE RESISTANCE).

"YOUTHS AND GIRLS, THINK THAT OVER AGAIN, AND THOSE TOO WHO NOW LOOK AT OUR TANKS IN SUSPICION. THEY CAME TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF YOUR MOTHERLAND? WHO BROUGHT THOSE TANKS IN? THE SONS OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR YOUR FREEDOM IN 1945."

KONIEV QUOTED SVOBODA'S MEMOIRS AS SAYING "IT IS TERRIBLE TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO US IF THE SOVIET ARMY HAD NOT CRUSHED HITLER'S TROOPS AND BROUGHT US FREEDOM."

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