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C/S -- 1145 INTRO -- WESTERN CP REACTION

MUNICH, SEP 3 (CNR)-- THE TWO BIGGEST COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE WEST TOOK DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS MORNING.

THE ITALIAN PARTY PAPER L'UNITA WAS CRITICAL OF SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHILE A FRENCH PARTY POLITBURO STATEMENT CONTAINED ONLY MILD REPROACH.

THE ITALIANS DISPUTES THE SOVIET CONTENTION THAT A COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY PLOT HAD NECESSITATED THE INTERVENTION, SAYING IT WAS THE BUSINESS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS THEMSELVES TO EVALUATE AND CONFRONT SUCH DANGERS.

L'UNITA ALSO ARGUED WITH THE STATEMENT IN THE SOVIET PARTY PAPER PRAVDA SAYING ONLY IMPERIALISTS CRITICIZED THE INVVASION. IN FACT, "MANY AND IMPORTANT COMMUNIST PARTIES" HAD PROTESTED THE "UNMOTIVATED MILITARY INTERVENTION," L'UNITA SAID.

THE FRENCH POLITBURO STATEMENT SAID IT HOPED APPLICATION OF THE MOSCOW ADCORDS WOULD PERMIT CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IT PROMISED TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO HELP THE RAPID REALIZATION OF THE AGREEMENTS AND SUPPORTED THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY'S EFFORTS TOWARDS THIS END.

THE FRENCH PARTY LEADERS RECALLED THAT THEY HAD "DISAPPROVED THE MILITARY INTERVENTION" AND SAID THEY CONSIDERED IT POSITIVE THAT THE MOSCOW TALKS HAD "LED TO AN ACCORD."

BG/U 1150/68 17PT 12