

CN 87

X/13- E/W - COMMUNIST "VOLKSSTIMME" ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
(ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

VIENNA, SEPT 3 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA)-- THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL ORGAN "VOLKSSTIMME" IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK POST-JANUARY PLENUM EVOLUTION UNDER DUBCEK WAS STRENGTHENED BY THE NEWLY ELECTED CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY PRESIDUM.

REPORTING TODAY ON THE WEEKEND SESSION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CENTRAL COMMITTEE, THE COMMUNIST DAILY STRESSED THE DROPPING OF THE CONSERVATIVES KOLDER, BARBIREK, SVESTKA AND RIGO, AS WELL AS THE SUPPORT OF OLD-GUARD COMMUNISTS FOR DUBCEK.

IN A LONG ARTICLE CARRIED ON THE PAPERS SECOND PAGE, "VOLKSSTIMMES" SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT REPORTS FROM PRAGUE THAT "THE CZECHOSLOVAK YOUTH PASSED ITS TEST WITH HONOUR".

ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIST DAILY, THE CZECHOSLOVAK YOUTH HAS SHOWN ITS COURAGE WHEN OPPOSING THE OCCUPATION TROOPS BUT ALSO ITS WISDOM WHEN KEEPING CALM AFTER IT BECAME NECESSARY TO INDUCE THE ARMIES TO MOVE OUT FROM THE CITIES.

REPORTING ON THE STAND TAKEN BY CZECHOSLOVAK ARTISTS, NEWSMEN AND WRITERS, "VOLKSSTIMME" PRAISED THEIR DECISION "TO CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND A HUMAN SOCIALISM".

"VOLKSSTIMMES" REPORTER ALSO STRESSED THAT THE TIES BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLECTUALS AND WORKERS HAD BECOME CLOSER DURING THE RECENT EVENTS AND THE DANGER OF A SPLIT BETWEEN THE TWO STRATAS OF THE POPULATION IS NOT ACUTE.

IN A SPOT-LIGHT, "VOLKSSTIMME" STRONGLY CRITICIZED EAST GERMAN AND POLISH ACCUSATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST "ZIONISTS AS HAVING BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

"SOME OF THE TUNES HEARD FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN POLEMICS ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS ARE SIMPLY UNBEARABLE", "VOLKSSTIMME" WROTE.

AFTER HAVING LISTED THE EAST GERMAN PARTYS CENTRAL ORGAN AND OPINIONS VOICED BY POLISH RADIO AND TELEVISION, THE AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST DAILY STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN "ZIONISM" AND THE ATTACKED CZECH WRITERS GOLDSTUECKER, PROCHASKA AND KOHOUT.

"WHATEVER THE OPINION OF THESE WRITERS MIGHT BE, IT HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH ZIONISM EVEN IF THEIR VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT DIFFER FROM THE VIEWS OF THEIR PARTY LEADERSHIP", "VOLKSSTIMME" SAID.

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