

CN 154

X/13 BRIT - 1ST ADD BRITISH UNIONS (CN 153) XXX IT

HAYDAY RECALLED THAT CONGRESS LAST YEAR HAD VOTED TO EXTEND AND EXPLORE CONTRACTS WITH TRADE UNIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE HAD FOLLOWED THIS UP IN THE BELIEF THAT RELATIONS WERE PROGRESSING AFTER 20 YEARS OF STALEMATE.

HE DESCRIBED A VISIT BY A CONGRESS DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION LAST YEAR, THE EXECUTIVES INVITATION TO SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADERS TO ATTEND THE CENTENARY CONFERENCE AND ITS HOPE OF SENDING A DELEGATION TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA THIS MONTH--ALL MOVES WHICH WERE NEGATED OR THROWN INTO DOUBT BY THE INVASION.

THE FIVE SPEAKERS WHO FOLLOWED HAYDAY TO THE ROSTRUM WERE UNANIMOUS IN CONDEMNING INVASION BUT DISAGREED OVER THE EXECUTIVE DECISION TO BREAK OFF CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS.

RALPH BOND, A MEMBER OF THE TELEVISION AND MOVIE TECHNICIANS UNION, AND A WELL-KNOWN LEFTWINGER, SAID HE ASSOCIATED HIMSELF UNRESERVEDLY WITH THE EXECUTIVES CONDEMNATION OF THE INVASION BUT HIS UNION URGED THAT THE CONGRESS DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESTORE BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNIST UNIONS IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE.

ASB/HI

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