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X/13 C/S MORNING STAR ACCUSES TUC OF STIRRING UP ANTI-SOVIET
CAMPAIGN

LONDON SEPTEMBER 4--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN, THE MORNING STAR, ROSE TO THE DEFENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION THIS MORNING, DESPITE ITS "TRAGIC ERROR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS, REPRESENTING 9 MILLION BRITISH UNION MEMBERS, YESTERDAY APPROVED A REPORT CONDEMNING THE INVASION, OUTLINING THE REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF AN INVITATION TO THE SOVIET TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AND DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

IT WAS THE CANCELLATION OF THE INVITATION TO THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE THAT AROUSED THE STAR, WHICH ARGUED THAT TO COUNTER THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO REVIVE THE COLD WAR IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER TO EXTEND CONTACTS WITH RUSSIA AND ALL OTHER COMMUNIST CONTROLLED COUNTRIES.

"THE SOONER THE LEADERS OF THE TUC ABANDON THEIR POLICY OF BREAKING OFF RELATIONS WITH SOME OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS, THE BETTER," THE STAR SAID IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL.

IT WENT ON THAT TRADE UNIONISTS WHO HAVE HARDLY RAISED THEIR VOICE ABOVE A WHISPER ABOUT VIETNAM "NOW SHOUT TO HIGH HEAVEN ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE STAR COMMENTED:

"ALL THIS ADDS TO THE FEELING OF MANY TRADE UNIONISTS THAT SOMERIGHT WING TRADE UNION LEADERS ARE MORE CONCERNED TO STIR UP AN ANTI-SOVIET, COLD WAR CAMPAIGN THAN HELP GET A SOLUTION TO GRAVE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS."

IT SAID THE ARGUMENT OF "THESE BACKWOODSMEN" THAT THE ONLY TWO CHOICES ARE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE INVASION OR A BOYCOTT OF CONTACTS WITH RUSSIAN UNIONS IS "UNMITIGATED NONSENSE."

"BECAUSE THE SOVIET LEADERS HAVE MADE A TRAGIC ERROR IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS CEASED TO BE A SOCIALIST STATE OR HAS BECOME IMPERIALIST", THE STAR SAID.

THE TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

THE SOONER THE LEADERS OF THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS ABANDON THEIR POLICY OF BREAKING OFF RELATIONS WITH SOME OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS, THE BETTER.

THEY HAVE GONE FURTHER EVEN THAN THE GOVERNMENT IN THEIR BOYCOTT PLANS. TRADE UNION LEADERS WHO HAVE HARDLY RAISED THEIR VOICE ABOVE A WHISPER WHEN TALKING ABOUT VIETNAM NOW SHOUT TO HIGH HEAVEN ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

MR. LESLIE CANNON, THE ELECTRICIANS LEADER, WHO INDULGED IN A TIRADE OF ABUSE OF THE SOVIET UNION IN YESTERDAYS TRADES UNION CONGRESS DISCUSSION, HAS NEVER PROPOSED BREAKING OFF RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOUR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS.

THE AFL-CIO PRESIDENT, GEORGE MEANY, IS ONE OF THE MOST VOCIFEROUS SUPPORTERS OF JOHNSONS VIETNAM WAR.

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