

CS - "LITERARY GAZETTE" ATTACKS ARAGON

MOSCOW, SEPT. 4, REUTER -A SOVIET JOURNAL TODAY HIT OUT AT THE LEADING FRENCH COMMUNIST NOVELIST, POET AND ESSAYIST, LOUIS ARAGON, FOR CRITICISING SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE WEEKLY "LITERARY GAZETTE", ORGAN OF THE SOVIET WRITERS UNION, TOOK EXCEPTION TO A RECENT STATEMENT SIGNED BY M. ARAGON AND A GROUP OF FELLOW-INTELLECTUALS IN THE WEEKLY MAGAZINE, "LETTRES FRANCAISES", WHICH M. ARAGON EDITS.

AN UNSIGNED ARTICLE IN THE SOVIET PUBLICATION SAID THEIR STATEMENT INDIRECTLY COMPARED THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH HITLERITE GERMANY'S OCCUPATION OF FRANCE. THIS WAS "BLASPHEMOUS AND OUTRAGEOUS," IT SAID.

THE "LITERARY GAZETTE" SAID THE STATEMENT IN THE FRENCH MAGAZINE WAS "A MIXTURE OF FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED, OF POLITICAL SHORTSIGHTEDNESS AND LACK OF INFORMATION."

THE SOVIET ARTICLE RECALLED THAT SEVERAL FRENCH LEFT-WING INTELLECTUALS HAD ALSO CONDEMNED THE SOVIET UNION FOR CRUSHING THE 1956 HUNGARIAN UPRISING BUT HAD LATER "CONFESSED THEIR MISTAKES."

THE "LITERARY GAZETTE" POSED THE QUESTION: "IS IT NOT BETTER NOT TO JUMP TO HASTY CONCLUSIONS IN ORDER NOT TO LOOK SILLY LATER WHEN YOU HAVE TO CONFESS THESE CONCLUSIONS WERE MISTAKEN?"

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