

HERE IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE ROME MEETING OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES;

"TWO COMMITTEES OF THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE MET IN ROME ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 1968 " THE POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES.

"IN A JOINT MEETING, THE TWO COMMITTEES AGREED ON THE GRAVITY OF THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA . BY A FLAGRANT BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE ARMIES OF THE SOVIET UNION, BULGARIA, HUNGARY, EAST GERMANY AND POLAND HAVE OCCUPIED A SOVEREIGN STATE IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE THEIR POLITICAL HEGEMONY BY FEAR AND BY FORCE.

" CONVINCED THAT THEY EXPRESS A UNANIMOUS PUBLIC OPINION, THE TWO COMMITTEES INDIGNANTLY CONDEMNED THIS BRUTAL AND INEXCUSABLE ACT OF FORCE WHICH IS CONTRARY TO THE RIGHT OF SELF- DETERMINATION OF A EUROPEAN NATION, TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

"THEY CONDEMNED THE PRESSURES APPLIED BY THE SOVIET UNION UNION TO OBTAIN THE SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM OF OPINION AND THE RESTORATION OF CENSORSHIP. THEY DENOUNCED THE ARREST AND ABDUCTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS AND LEADERS BY THE OCCUPATION FORCES.

" THEY CONSIDERED THAT THE USSR AND THE FOUR COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK PART IN THE INVASION SHOULD WITHDRAW THEIR OCCUPATION FORCES AND ENABLE THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE TO TAKE IN HAND ITS OWN DESTINY.

"THEY EXPRESSED THEIR ADMIRATION FOR AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE WHICH BY ITS CCIVIC MATURITY AND COURAGE HAS SHEWN AND IS SHOWING ITS DETERMINATION TO DEFEND IR ITS RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE AND ITS ASPIRATION FOR A FREE AND MORE HUMANE REGIME.

" THEY CONSIDERED IT THE DUTY OF ALL GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBER STATES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO WELCOME AND AID THE REFUGEES. THEY PAID TRIBUTE TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK MEN AND WOMEN WHO RESISTED UNJUSTIFIED AGGRESSION AT THE PRICE OF THEIR LIVES.

" THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT A LASTING PEACE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST TO WHICH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO CONTRIBUTE , IS ONLY CONCEIVABLE IN THE FUTURE IF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION."

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