

X/4 C/S - YUGOSLAVIA MUST BE READY FOR "ANY EVENTUALITY"

(W/ CN 286)

BELGRADE, SEPTEMBER 4 (CMD)- THE HEAD OF YUGOSLAVIA'S SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, BENO ZUPANCIC, SAID TODAY THAT HIS COUNTRY NO LONGER "HAVE ILLUSIONS" FOLLOWING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND MUST THEREFORE "BE READY FOR ANY EVENTUALITY TO PROTECT" ITS INDEPENDENCE AND "SELF-GOVERNMENT ROAD OF DEVELOPMENT."

ZUPANCIC, WHO HEADS THE COMMUNIST-LED YUGOSLAV MASS ORGANIZATION, TOLD A SESSION OF THE ALLIANCE'S PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT ONE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT FORGET THE "OMINOUS SIMILARITY" OF POLEMICS, CRITICISM AND ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAVIA TO EARLY CHARGES LEVELLED AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA PRIOR TO HER INVASION.

"WE CANNOT BUT DRAW FROM SOME ATTACKS AND STANDPOINTS THE CONCLUSION THAT WE OUGHT TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS AND ALERT," ZUPANCIC SAD.

HIS REMARKS WERE REPORTED BY THE OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV TANJUG NEWS AGENCY.

HE SAID THAT THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN BY "THE FIVE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" (CMD -- PRESUMABLY HE MEANT THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, BULGARIA, HUNGARY AND EAST GERMANY) "AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA IS AIMED AT ISOLATING YUGOSLAVIA AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE" WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES.

HE ALSO SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO BE A SOCIALIST COUNTRY WAS NO LONGER "ANY GUARANTEE" THAT THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM SAFEGUARDED THAT COUNTRY FROM INTEFERENCE BY OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

HE CALLED THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN WARSAW PACT TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA THE MOST URGENT MATTER OF THE MOMENT, ALONG WITH "RESPECT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THAT COUNTRY AND REAL NON-INTERFERENCE IN ITS SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT."

(TANJUG, SEPTEMBER 4)

JM/ASB/E 2348/68 f.

WD