

CN 22

E/W -- CANADA REPLIES TO SOVIET CRITICISM

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 5 (UPI)--CANADA REBUFFED SOVIET ATTACKS WEDNESDAY AS A SIGN OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE RUSSIAN CASE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER PRAVDA WEDNESDAY DESCRIBED THE CANADIAN ROLE ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK QUESTION AS CONSPIRATORIAL.

THE PRAVDA ARTICLE SPECIFICALLY CRITICISED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS GEORGE IGNATIEFF FOR HIS ROLE IN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATES ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA LAST MONTH.

MITCHELL SHARP, CANADIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE:

"THE PROPAGANDA ATTACKS BY SOVIET PRESS AND TELEVISION ON CANADA AND ON THE CANADIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ARE CLEAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE STRATEGY OF THE USSR TO WORLD REACTION AGAINST THE INVASION AND MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"SUCH ABUSE IS ESPECIALLY CHARACTERISTIC OF THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA MACHINE WHEN THE SOVIET CASE IS WEAK.

"THE FACT THAT CANADA HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR ABUSE INDICATES THAT CANADIAN INITIATIVES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL SERVED A USEFUL PURPOSE IN HELPING BRING THE SUPPORT OF WORLD OPINION TO BEAR AGAINST THE SOVIET USE OF FORCE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

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