

WURMSER QUOTED FROM THE PASSAGE OF THE 1960 DECLARATION, RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF THE PARTIES TO DEFINE THEIR POLICIES ACCORDING TO THE CONCRETE HISTORIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THEIR COUNTRIES. "THE APPLICATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE WAS PREVENTED IN CENTRAL EUROPE BY THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, BY THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE POPULAR DEMOCRACIES ACCEDED TO SOCIALISM AND BY THE CONCEPTIONS OF STALIN. AND YET THE DIVERSITY OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IS AS GREAT AS THAT OF THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES..."

"THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, WANTED TO RECTIFY A POLICY JUDGED TO BE ERRONEOUS -- THE WORD IS WEAK -- NOT ONLY BY THIS PARTY AND THIS PEOPLE, BUT BY ALL THE COMMUNIST PARTIES..."

"JUST AS ONE ADJUSTS A PAIR OF BINOCULARS TO ONE'S PERSONAL EYESIGHT, THEY UNDERTOOK TO MODIFY WHAT FORMERLY HAD NOT FITTED IN WITH THE TRADITIONS OF A NATION WHICH, ALONE AMONG ALL THOSE WHICH HAVE ESTABLISHED SOCIALISM SINCE THE WAR, HAD FOR MANY YEARS KNOWN BOURGEOIS DEMOCRACY AND ITS FREEDOMS..."

"THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS TRUSTED THEIR PARTY, THE ONLY ONE, AMONG ALL THE PARTIES OF THE POPULAR DEMOCRACIES, THAT BEFORE THE WAR HAD OBTAINED AN IMPORTANT PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTES IN WESTERN-STYLE ELECTIONS..."

"THEY TRUSTED A WORKING CLASS AND A PEOPLE WHICH, ALONE IN THE POPULAR DEMOCRACIES, HAD BY A UNANIMOUS STRIKE PREVENTED... THE EVICTION OF COMMUNIST MINISTERS (IN 1948)..."

"NOTHING HAS SHOWN THEY WERE WRONG..."

WURMSER RECALLED THAT DUBCEK'S POLICY "HAD BEEN, SINCE JANUARY, INCESSANTLY APPROVED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND BY THE SOVIET PARTY." HE SAID: "IT IS CERTAIN THAT IT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FAULTS AND WEAKNESSES, BY ABUSES AND BY THE NEGLIGENCE BY IRRESPONSIBLES OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALISM..."

"IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THIS POLICY GAVE AN OPPORTUNITY OF EXPRESSION NOT ONLY TO THE MOST NECESSARY CRITICISMS, BUT ALSO TO AN OPPOSITION WHICH 20 YEARS OF SOCIALISM SHOULD HAVE LIMITED. BUT WHICH ARBITRARY RULE, VIOLATIONS OF SOCIALIST LEGALITY AND TRIALS HAD, ON THE CONTRARY, SUSTAINED."

"BUT, AFTER ALL, THIS ACCOMMODATION, DANGEROUS AND NECESSARY, WAS UNDERWAY, NOT AGAINST THE WILL OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT UNDER ITS LEADERSHIP. IT WAS GOING TO LOSE CONTROL OF IT? THAT IS AN OPINION -- OR MORE PRECISELY A PREDICTION."

"ONE CAN EQUALLY WELL BELIEVE, WITH MORE CONFIDENCE IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY AND IN THE MASSES, THAT IT WAS GOING TO MAINTAIN ITS GENERAL LINE AND PROGRESSIBLY ELIMINATE THE EXCESSES, ESPECIALLY SINCE THESE EXCESSES WERE ABOVE ALL ATTRIBUTABLE TO IRRESPONSIBLE PEOPLE."

"THERE WAS NEVER ANY QUESTION EITHER IN THE GOVERNMENT OR IN ANY ORGAN OF THE PARTY, OF RENOUNCING THE LEADING ROLE OF THE PARTY, OF ANY KIND OF MEASURE OF DE-SOCIALIZATION OR, ABOVE ALL, OF A RELAXATION OF THE ALLIANCE OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

(MORE) 1706/68 SEPT 5

RL/ 43