

ASKED FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN MOSCOW BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA AFTER THE OCCUPATION LONGO SAID:

"EVALUATION IS NOT RPT NOT EASY, GIVEN THE WAY IN WHICH THAT COMPROMISE WAS REACHED, UNDER CONDITIONS OF GRAVEDISTURBANCE AND IN THE STATE OF NECESSAITY CONSTITUTED BY THE PRESENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF FOREIGN TROOPS.

"FOR THE MOMENT, I THINK ONE CAN SAY THAT THEY PREVENTED A CATASTROPHE, AND THAT IT CONSTITUTES A FIRST STEP TOWARD THE NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OF THE RELATIONS AMONG THE SOCIALIST STATES.

"I THINK THAT ONLY BY RE-ESTABLISHING A NORMAL SITUATION -- AND THIS IMPLIES THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS -- CAN THERE BE AVOIDED FURTHER, DRAMATIC AGGRAVATIONS OF THE SITUATION AND GRAVER LACERATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS, COMMUNIST AND DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT."

LONGO SAID THAT THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ALSO BECAUSE OF THE "STRENGTH AND COHESION" OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND PEOPLE.

"...THEY GAVE PROOF," HE CONTINUED, "OF PRIDE AND DISCIPLINE WITHOUT PRECEDENT, OF FIDELITY TO THE IDEALS OF DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANISTIC SOCIALISM, AND... THEY SUCCEEDED IN AVOIDING ERRORS AND RASH GESTURES THAT COULD HAVE HAD IRREPARABLE CONSEQUENCES.

LONGO SAID THAT HIS PARTY MUST CONTRIBUTE, AS MUCH AS IT CAN, TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE "TOTAL AUTONOMY" OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNIST PARTY.

LONGO WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE REJECTED THE IDEA THAT THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD MARK THE FINISH OF THE "STRATEGY OF NATIONAL ROADS TO SOCIALISM."

"AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED," HE SAID, "WE ARE MAINTAINING, MORE CLEARLY AND CONSISTENTLY THAN EVER, OUR ORIENTATION OF THE ITALIAN ROAD TO SOCIALISM..."

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING MEETINGS AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES TO DISCUSS THE CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS, LONGO SAID:

"I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE WELL TO HAVE WITH THE OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES A CONFRONTATION AND AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH REGARD TO THE EVENTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO THE POLITICAL AND THEORETICAL PROBLEMS DERIVING FROM THEM..."

"UNDER EXAMINATION ARE DIFFERENT PROPOSALS, MADE BY VARIOUS COMMUNIST PARTIES, FOR WIDER MEETINGS AMONG THE COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES, ESPECIALLY OF CAPITALIST EUROPE."

LONGO SAID THE "ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE" FOR ALL MEETINGS WAS THE AVOIDANCE OF A COUNTERPOSING IN DEED OF ONE GROUP OF PARTIES TO ANOTHER GROUP.

"AS FAR AS THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES IS CONCERNED," LONGO ADDED, "I CAN SAY THAT THE PREPARATORY WORK IS ALREADY VERY ADVANCED, BUT I THINK THAT, AS LONG AS THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE EVENTS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS NOT RPT NOT REACHED A DEFINITIVE AND SATISFACTORY NORMALIZATION, IT WILL BE NEITHER RPT NEITHER OPPORTUNE NOR RPT NOR USEFUL AND PERHAPS NOT RPT NOT EVEN POSSIBLE TO BRING THEM (PREPARATIONS) TO A CONCLUSION."