

LONDON SEPTEMBER 7--(RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, THE MORNING STAR, LAUNCHED A FORTHRIGHT ATTACK ON RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS FOR ATTEMPTING TO SMEAR CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICIANS AND INTERFERING IN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

IN A COLUMN-LONG EDITORIAL ON THE FRONT PAGE, THE MORNING STAR SAID SOME FELLOW JOURNALISTS IN SOME SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WERE DOING NO RPT NO SERVICE EITHER TO THEIR PEOPLES OR GOVERNMENTS BY ATTEMPTING, AFTER THE EVENT, TO JUSTIFY THE MILITARY INTERVENTION.

THE PAPER SAID THE CLAIM THAT THE PRESENCE OF WESTERN TOURISTS AND BUSINESSMEN WERE FACTORS IN THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE INTERVENTION "INDICATES THAT THE CASE IS VERY WEAK INDEED."

IT SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE AS YET THAT THE AGENTS AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, WHETHER CZECHOSLOVAK OR FOREIGN, HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF THE INVASION.

BUT, THE PAPER SAID, ISVESTIAS ALLEGATIONS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK WORKED FOR THE NAZIS WERE "EVEN MORE DISTURBING," AND EITHER THE EVIDENCE SHOULD BE PRODUCED OR THE CHARGES IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN.

"CONCERN IS ALSO AROUSED," THE MORNING STAR SAID, BY THE STATEMENTS YESTERDAY BY PRAVDA CORRESPONDENTS IN PRAGUE INDICATING THAT THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS COULD LEAD TO A VERY LONG DLEAY IN WITHDRAWING TROOPS.

"THE MOST ABNORMAL FEATURE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA," THE PAPER SAID, IS THE PRESENCE OF LARGE UNINVITED FOREIGN FORCES ON ITS SOIL...

"MATTERS ARE NOT BEING HELPED BY SOVIET JOURNALISTS WHOSE VIOLENT ATTACKS ON INDIVIDUAL CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICIANS GIVE THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION OF INTERFERENCE IN CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT REJECTED...SOME SOVIET NEWSPAPERMEN HAVE ADVISED THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUES TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND EXERCISE RESTRAINT. SUCH ADVICE SHOULD APPLY TO BOTH SIDES."

THE TEXT OF THE EDITORIAL FOLLOWS:

"SOME OF OUR FELLOW-JOURNALISTS IN SOME SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE DOING THEIR PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS NO SERVICE BY THEIR ATTEMPTS, AFTER THE EVENT, TO JUSTIFY THE MILITARY INTERVENTION IN CZECHSOLVAKIA.

"SUCH EFFORTS HAVE INCLUDED THE CLAIM THAT THE PRESENCE OF 3,000 BRITISH TOURISTS IN THE COUNTRY LAST MONTH, AS WELL AS THE VISITS OF WESTERN BUSINESSMEN, WERE FACTORS IN THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE INTERVENTION.

"YET EVERY SOCIALIST COUNTRY HAS BEEN TRYING TO ATTRACT TOURISTS AND DEVELOP EAST-WEST TRADE. AT THIS VERY MOMENT LARGE NUMBERS OF WESTERN BUSINESSMEN ARE IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, AT THE LEIPZIG FAIR.

"NO DOUBT THERE ARE WESTERN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS AMONG THEM. BUT THE USE OF SUCH ARGUMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A SOCIALIST COUNTRY INDICATES THAT THE CASE IS VERY WEAK INDEED.

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