

(EDITORIAL TEXT CONTINUED)

"NOR IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE AS YET THAT THE AGENTS AND COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, WHETHER CZECHOSLOVAK OR FOREIGN, HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED AS A RESULT OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

"EVEN MORE DISTURBING ARE THE ALLEGATIONS PRINTED IN ISVESTIA ABOUT THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. JIRI HAJEK (WHO HELD MANY IMPORTANT POSTS UNDER THE NOVOTNY REGIME), WHICH CLAIMED THAT HE WORKED FOR THE NAZIS, BUT PRODUCED NO EVIDENCE.

"THE EVIDENCE FOR THE CHARGES -- THE GRAVEST THAT CAN BE MADE AGAINST A COMMUNIST -- SHOULD BE PRODUCED, OR THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY BE WITHDRAWN.

"CONCERN IS ALSO AROUSED BY STATEMENTS MADE YESTERDAY BY PRAVDA CORRESPONDENTS IN PRAGUE WHICH INTERPRET THE PHRASE IN LAST WEEKS MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS IN A WAY WHICH COULD LEAD TO A VERY LONG DELAY.

"THE NORMALISATION PROCSS, THEY SAID, INVOLVES COMPLETELY EXPOSING THE ANTI-SOCIALIST FORCES, LIQUIDATING THEIR INFLUENCE, AND STRENGTHENING THE GUIDING ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

"BUT THESE ARE ALL TASKS WHICH ONLY THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS CAN CARRY OUT.

"THE GUIDING AND LEADING ROLE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED BY MILITARY MEANS, AND LEAST OF ALL BY UNINVITED FOREIGN TROOPS.

"IT CAN ONLY BE ESTABLISHED ON THE BASIS OF WINNING THE SUPPORT AND TRUST OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE.

"THE ERRORS OF THE NOVOTNY REGIME HAD UNFOGTUNATELY GRAVELY JEOPARDISED THE POSITION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND THE NEW LEADERSHIP WAS BEGINNING TO RE-ESTABLISH ITS LEADING ROLE PRIOR TO THE INTERVENTION.

"NOW THIS TASK HAS BEEN MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. THE MOST ABNORMAL FEATURE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS THE PRESENCE OF LARGE UNINVITED FOREIGN FORCES ON ITS SOIL, AND THEIR WITHDRAWAL WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS.

"MATTERS ARE NOT BEING HELPED BY SOVIET JOURNALISTS WHOSE VIOLENT ATTACKS ON INDIVIDUAL CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICIANS GIVE THE STRONGEST IMPRESSION OF INTERFERNCE IN CZECHOSLOVAK INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT REJECTED.

"IF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE IS EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF THE MOSCOW AGREEMENT, SO ALSO SHOULD THE OTHER PARTIES TO IT.

"SOME SOVIET NEWSPAPERMEN HAVE ADVISED THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUES TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND EXERCISE RESTRAINT. SUCH ADVICE SHOULD APPLY TO BOTH SIDES.

"THE WAY TO CREATE THE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS CAN CARRY THROUGH THEIR ACTION PROGRAMME (SUPPORTED BY THE SOVIET COMMUNISTS IN THE MOSCOW COMMUNIQUE), STRENGTHEN SOCIALISM AND DEFEAT ITS OPPONENTS, IS TO REACH A SOLUTION RESPECTING THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE COUNTRY AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF ITS COMMUNIST PARTY""