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X/13 - WORLD - CS INVASION OVERSHADOWS CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY

VIENNA, SEPT 7 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- THE MILITARY INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONTINUES TO OVERSHADOW THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHILOSOPHY CONVENING IN VIENNA AT PRESENT.

BECAUSE OF FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE PARTICIPANTS AND UNFORESEEN REMARKS CONCERNING THE WARSAW PACT INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE CONGRESS HAD TO CHANGE ITS MODE OF WORK. INSTEAD PRESENTING CONTRIBUTIONS PREPARED IN ADVANCE, FREE DISCUSSION BEGAN TO REPLACE THE READING OF LECTURES.

THUS, THE FOUR-HOUR DEBATE ABOUT PHILOSOPHY AND IDEOLOGY, HELD ON FRIDAY IN THE OVERCROWDED AUDITORIUM MAXIMUM OF THE VIENNA UNIVERSITY, DEVELOPED INTO A DISCUSSION ABOUT MARXIST IDEOLOGY.

WHILE MOST MARXIST PHILOSOPHERS MAINTAINED THAT MARXISM MUST BE REGARDED A "SCIENTIFIC TRUTH", SPEAKERS FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES PROTESTED AGAINST THE CLAIM THAT "MARXISM REPRESENTS A VALID AND UNCONTROVERSIAL TRUTH".

AUSTRIAN PROFESSOR WETTER STATED THAT WITHOUT DISREGARDING ITS PRINCIPAL IDEAS, MARXISM SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH RELIGION.

SOVIET PROFESSOR V.M. SHVENIERADSE CRITICIZED PHILOSOPHICAL TRENDS AIMED AT A "DE-IDEOLOGIFICATION OF PHILOSOPHY" AND CLAIMED THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "INDEPENDENT IDEOLOGY". "INDEPENDENT IDEOLOGY

REPRESENTS ONLY AN IDEOLOGY HOSTILE TO MARXISM-LENINISM", HE SAID.

CONCLUDING SHVENIERADSE DEMANDED THAT MARXISM SHOULD BE EXPLAINED ONLY BY MARXISTS, BUT HIS STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH LAUGHTER BY THE AUDIENCE.

EAST GERMAN PROFESSOR G. MENDES CLAIM THAT "ONLY THE COMMUNIST SOCIAL STRUCTURE ENABLES PEOPLE TO DECIDE ABOUT PEACE AND WAR" MET ALSO WITH A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM THE AUDIENCE AND HIS CONTRIBUTION WAS INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES BY SHOUTS "TANKS, TANKS". (MORE)

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