

BRUSSELS, SEPT. 7 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- EUROPEAN FREE TRADE UNION LEADERS, MEETING HERE TODAY TO DISCUSS THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS HAVE ISSUED A SHARPLY WORDED STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE SOVIET-LED OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY.

THE CONFERENCE, ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) INCLUDED MEMBERS OF THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD, REPRESENTATIVES OF TEN WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION SECRETARIATS.

AFTER SOME FIVE HOURS OF DISCUSSION, THE "INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA" ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH "EXPRESSED PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK WORKERS, AND EMPHATICALLY REAFFIRMED CONDEMNATION OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," A SPOKESMAN SAID. THE REMAINDER OF THE STATEMENT SAID:

"THE INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE UNION CONFERENCE DENOUNCES THE MOSCOW DICTATES WHICH HAVE BEEN FORCED ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN AN ATTEMPT TO WHITEWASH BEFORE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF THE COUNTRY BY FOREIGN TROOPS AND THE CONTROL OF ITS PUBLIC LIFE BY THE RUSSIAN SECRET POLICE, WHICH, IN PRACTICE HAS TURNED THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA INTO A PROTECTORATE.

"THE KREMLIN ACTION AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA DEMONSTRATES THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S RULERS' CONCEPT OF TOTALITARIAN AND DOGMATIC COMMUNISM MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ACCEPT ANY CHANGES TOWARD FREEDOM. IT REVEALS THE BANKRUPTCY OF THIS SYSTEM WHICH HAS TO RESORT TO FORCE AND REPRESSION TO MAINTAIN ITS GRIP ON A PEOPLE STRIVING FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

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