

C/S - 1915 INTRO - POLEMICS OVER CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MUNICH, SEPTEMBER 7 (CNR/AGENCIES)- THE COMMUNIST PRESS AND RADIO CONTINUED THEIR PLEMICS TODAY OVER THE INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

HOWEVER TODAY'S EDITION OF THE SOVIET PAPERS PRAVDA AND IZVESTIA CARRIED NO DISPATCHES FROM THEIR PRAGUE CORRESPONDENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE OCCUPATION.

PRAVDA ACCUSED THE AUSTRIAN, WEST GERMAN AND YUGOSLAV PRESS OF "SPREADING ALL SORTS OF WILD STORIES" AND SUGGESTING SOVIET TROOPS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEHAVED AS "TRUE THIEVES."

THIS WAS DONE TO CONFUSE CZECHOSLOVAKS ABROAD WHEN WARSAW PACT TROOPS ENTERED THEIR COUNTRY, PRAVDA SAID IN A DISPATCH FROM THE PETRZALKA CHECKPOINT ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK-AUSTRIAN BORDER.

THE SOVIET PRESS ALSO ACCUSED WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF BEING INVOLVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE NEWSPAPER SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA, CHARGED THAT U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AGENTS, IN CO-OPERATION WITH WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE, AND FORMED THE "NUCLEUS" OF A CLANDESTINE SPY NETWORK INSIDE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AIMED AT RENDERING ACTIVE HELP TO COUNTER REVOLUTIONARIES.

THIS CHARGE WAS LATER REPEATED IN A RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY, AND ANOTHER MOSCOW BROADCAST ACCUSED THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF RELAYING CLANDESTINE CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO BROADCASTS WHICH, MOSCOW CHARGED, HAD IN FACT ORIGINATED FROM WEST GERMAN ARMY UNITS ALONG THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER.

(MORE) DMA/BG/E 1909/68

