

CS - SOVIET COMMANDERS DEFEND INVASION

MOSCOW, SEPT 8 (UPI)--SOVIET TANKS ROLLED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO "DEFEND THE VITAL INTERESTS" OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THEIR COMMANDER IN CHIEF SAID TODAY.

MARSHAL PAVEL POLUBOYAROV, IN AN ARMORED FORCES DAY INTERVIEW IN PRAVDA, SAID "MANY SERVICEMEN OF THE SOVIET ARMORED FORCE ARE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON THE DAY OF THEIR HOLIDAY. THEY SHOW GREAT DISCIPLINE, STAUNCHNESS, DILIGENCE, HUMANISM AND RESPECT FOR THE FRATERNAL PEOPLE" OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER MARSHAL ANDREI A.GRECHKO, IN HIS ORDER OF THE DAY, DID NOT RPT NOT DIRECTLY MENTION CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT WARNED "THROUGH SUBVERSION, IMPERIALISM WANTS TO UNDERMINE FROM WITHIN THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM IN SEPARATE COUNTRIES."

THE SOVIET UNION, HE SAID, WAS DOING EVERYTHING NECESSARY FOR "STRENGTHENING THE UNITY AND COHESION OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES DISPLAYING CONSTANT CONCERN FOR INCREASING THE SOVIET UNIONS DEFENSE MIGHT."

POLUBOYAROV, EXPLAINING TO THE TANKMEN WHY THEY WERE INVOLVED IN AN INVASION OF A FELLOW-COMMUNIST COUNTRY, SAID "THEY CAME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TOGETHER WITH SOLDIERS OF OTHER ALLIED ARMIES, TO HELP THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE UPHOLD THEIR SOCIALIST GAINS, PREVENT RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND DEFEND THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

HE DID NOT INDICATE WHEN THE SOVIET ARMOR MIGHT LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

GRECHKO PUT BLAME ON "IMPERIALISTS OF THE UNITED STATES" IN VIETNAM, "ISRAEL'S AGGRESSIVE POLICY" IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND "WEST GERMAN REVANCHIST QUARTERS" FOR CREATING "A DIFFICULT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION."

NO MAJOR PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF SOVIET ARMOR WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION WERE SCHEDULED TO MARK THE DAY.