

CN 54

CS - 1ST ADD - PRAVDA: ENORMOUS (CN 53) XXX PLACE."

PRAVDA ALSO TOOK SOVIET CRITICISM OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS A STEP FURTHER, ATTACKING UNNAMED NEWSPAPERS THAT HAVE REAPPEARED SINCE THE OCCUPATION FOR DESCRIBING CZECHOSLOVAKIAS SOCIALIST PAST AS "20 YEARS OF BUREAUCRATIC DEFORMATION."

IT CRITICISED THE TRADE UNION NEWSPAPER PRACE FOR PUBLISHING A RESOLUTION DISAGREEING WITH THE MOSCOW NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S REFORMIST LEADERS AND SOVIET CHIEFS LAST MONTH. IT ALSO CRITICISED BRATISLAVA PRAVDA FOR BELITTLING THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY THREAT THAT THE RUSSIANS SAY PROMPTED THE INVASION.

PRAVDA ADDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO INTERVENE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE AGREEMENTS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS AT CIERNA NAD TISSOU AND BRATISLAVA.

IT MADE NO MENTION OF THE INITIAL CLAIMS THAT THE TROOPS HAD BEEN CALLED IN BY A GROUP OF CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS. THIS APPEAL WAS QUOTED BY THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS ON THE MORNING AFTER THE INVASION.

PRAVDA SAID THAT "UNTIL RECENTLY, THE LEADING CZECHOSLOVAK AGENCIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO DEFEND THE RULE OF THE PEOPLE, WERE IN FACT PARALYSED, AND THE PREPARATION FOR THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COUP WAS CARRIED OUT AT INCREASING TEMPOS."

"IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT THEIR TRUE FRIEND AND ALLIES WERE COMPELLED TO COME TO THE AID OF CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS, AND ALL WORKING PEOPLE," IT ADDED.

ASB/A 1410/68 SEPT 8 *ARB*