

PARIS SEPT. 9 (RFE SPECIAL/OVADIA) --- A MEMBER OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY POLITBURO HAS DESCRIBED THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS "A TRAGIC EVENT" AND REMINDED THE SOVIETS OF THEIR MOSCOW PROMISE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE COUNTRY.

SPEAKING AT THE ANNUAL GALA OF THE PARTY PAPER L'HUMANITE YESTERDAY, RENE PIQUET ONCE AGAIN EXPLAINED THE ATTITUDE OF THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS TOWARDS CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE POLITBURO MEMBER WAS ADDRESSING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS (ACCORDING TO HUMANITE HALF A MILLION) WHO HAD COME TO THE VINCENNES PARK AT THE EDGE OF PARIS.

PIQUET SAID THE "GRAVE EVENTS" DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAD "MOVED THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS AND CAUSED THEM GREAT CONCERN".

GOING INTO THE HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENTS, PIQUET SAID THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY, AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, HAD TAKEN A SERIES OF MEASURES "WITH THE LEGITIMATE AIM OF DEVELOPING SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY AND OF IMPROVING THE STYLE AND THE WORKING METHODS OF THE PARTY AND THE GOVERNMENT".

CERTAIN "ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO SOCIALISM" HAD EXPLOITED THE "JUST EFFORTS" OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY. THE "NEGATIVE PHENOMENA HAD WORRIED ALL COMMUNIST PARTIES, BUT "THEIR ASSESSMENT WAS THE OBJECT OF PROFOUND DIVERGENCES BETWEEN THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE COMMUNIST PARTIES OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES", PIQUET SAID.

THE FRENCH PARTY, SAID PIQUET, HAD ACTIVELY WORKED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS AND HAD HAILED THE CIERNA AND BRATISLAVA AGREEMENTS AS CONFORMING TO ITS POLICY.

"THIS IS WHY THE POLITICAL BUREAU AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF OUR PARTY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPROVAL AT THE TIME FOR THE MILITARY INTERVENTION", PIQUET SAID. HE REPEATED THE FRENCH OPINION THAT IT HAD BEEN UP TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES TO MUSTER THE FORCES NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM IN THEIR COUNTRY.

SINCE THOSE "TRAGIC EVENTS", THE CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET LEADERS HAD CONCLUDED AN ACCORD. "THE POLITBURO OF OUR PARTY CONSIDERS AS A POSITIVE FACT THE EXISTENCE OF THIS ACCORD, IN WHICH THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY DECLARES THAT THE INTERVENTION FORCES WILL BE PROGRESSIVELY WITHDRAWN AND THAT THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL DEVELOP IN THE MUTUAL RESPECT OF EQUALITY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY", SAID PIQUET.

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY "DESIRED AND CONTINUES TO DESIRE THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORD BY BOTH SIGNATORIES OPENS THE ROAD TOWARDS A RETURN TO A NORMAL SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND IT SUPPORT THE EFFORTS ALREADY ACHIEVED IN THIS RESPECT BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS".

PIQUET PROMISED THAT THE FRENCH PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, WHICH LEADS TO THE TRIUMPH OF SOCIALISM. HE ALSO HAILED THE FRIENDSHIP "FOR THE COUNTRY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION AND ITS COMMUNIST PARTY. NOBODY CAN FORGET THE GIGANTIC ACHIEVEMENTS DUE TO THE SOCIALIST REGIME, NOBODY CAN FORGET THE SACRIFICES, THE HEROISM, OF THE SOVIET UNION DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

"THEREFORE, NO MATTER WHAT DISAGREEMENTS MIGHT ARISE AMONG COMMUNIST PARTIES CONCERNING CERTAIN PROBLEMS, THEY SHALL NEVER IMPEDE THE SENSE OF OUR BATTLE, WHICH IS A BATTLE FOR MAN AND HIS HONOUR", SAID PIQUET.

JON/LA 1320/68/1001/02