

X/13 EURO - "COMES" DENOUNCES PERSECUTION OF CSR INTELLECTUALS  
(AMPLIFIES CN - 12, SEPT 8)

ROME, SEPT. 9.- (RFE SPECIAL/WILSON).-THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF WRITERS (COPIES), FROM ITS ROME HEADQUARTERS, HAS ISSUED A STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE PERSECUTION OF CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLECTUALS TOGETHER WITH AN APPEAL TO ALL COUNTRIES TO HELP THEM.

IN ADDITION, ITALIAN PRESIDENT OF COMES GIUSEPPE UNGARETTI, SECRETARY GENERAL GIANCARLO VIGORELLI AND A DELEGATION OF THE COMMUNITY ARE PREPARED TO GO TO PRAGUE TO TALK WITH PRESIDENT SVOBODA, PREMIER CERNIK AND PARTY SECRETARY DUBCEK.

THE COMES COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED SATURDAY, RECALLS AND REAFFIRMS THE COMMUNITYS IMMEDIATE INDIGNATION WHEN THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA OCCURED, AND EMPHASIZES ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLECTUALS IN SIX POINTS.

IT WAS SIGNED BY LEADING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IN MANY COUNTRIES.

THE COMMUNIQUE STATES:

"THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF WRITERS, ON THE VERY DAY OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SUSPENDED ITS CONGRESS IN LAUSANNE-ZURICH IN PROTEST. IT IMMEDIATELY DEMONSTRATED ITS INDIGNATION TOWARDS THE SOVIET, EAST GERMAN, POLISH, HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN AGGRESSORS AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, ITS SOLIDARITY FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE FOR CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS.

"NOTING FURTHER THAT DESPITE THE COMPROMISES SIGNED AND THE TRUCES PROMISED THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BECOMES EVER MORE TRAGIC AND THAT THERE IS ALSO A VERITABLE HUNT-DOWN OF INTELLECTUALS, COMES DEPLORES AND CONDEMNS ONCE MORE, THE EXECUTORS AND PRINCIPALS OF THIS ATROCIOUS AND ABSURD LIBERTICIDE.

"THIS LIBERTICIDE, AFTER IT HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THREATENS, MOREOVER, TO BE EXTENDED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THUS BRINGING EUROPE AND THE WORLD INTO A FORCED DIVISION INTO BLOCS WHICH HAD BEEN THOUGHT OVERCOME OR AT LEAST WITHIN THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING OVERCOME.

"COMES IS INDEED PROUD OF HAVING WORKED WITH FAITH AND CONFIDENCE FOR TEN YEARS TOWARD SUCH A HEALTHY OVERCOMING (OF BLOC DIVISIONS) AND TOWARDS ARDUOUS BUT FRUITFUL EXPANSION.

"BUT TO-DAY COMES IS SORROWFULLY FORCED TO NOTE THAT AFTER SUCH GRAVE EVENTS IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE TIME BEING PRE-ESTABLISH CULTURAL COLLABORATION WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE OCCUPIED CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EVEN THOUGH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ACTION CAN CERTAINLY NOT FALL ON THE INTELLECTUALS OF THESE COUNTRIES.

"THUS THE COMES ASKS AND CHARGES THEM TO REQUEST THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS, EVEN IF NOT RPT NOT LISTENED TO, TO RESPECT THE LIFE AND EVERY OTHER RIGHT OF THEIR CZECHOSLOVAK COLLEAGUES, DEPORTED IMPRISONED EXILED OR OTHERWISE IMPEDED FROM THE EXERCISE OF THEIR OWN WORK.

SECONDLY, TO ASK THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO GRANT CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLECTUALS THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM UNDER PREFERENTIAL CONDITIONS#

THIRDLY, TO RAISE FUNDS TO AID THESE INTELLECTUALS#

FOURTHLY, TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE INTELLECTUALS OF THE FIVE INVADING COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THEIR POSSIBLE MEDIATION IN FAVOR OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK INTELLECTUALS#

FIFTHLY, TO INTENSIFY RELATIONS WITH INTELLECTUALS IN ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA, AND

SIXTHLY, TO AFFIRM IN ALL THEIR WRITINGS AND WORKS THE HOPE AND CONFIDENCE THAT THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO RETURN TO THE DAYS OF THE "IRON CURTAIN" AND THE "COLD WAR."

AFTER ISSUING THE COMMUNIQUE VIGORELLI TOLD NEWSMEN THAT UNGARETTI, HE AND A COMES DELEGATION WERE PREPARED TO GO TO PRAGUE AT A MOMENTS NOTICE IF THEY WOULD BE PERMITTED TO TALK WITH SVOBODA, CERNIK AND DUBCEK.

JON/E/HE

1620/68

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