

X/13 FRANCE - 3RD ADD DE GAULLE: TOO LATE TO SAVE (CN 109)

XXX SATELLITES

THE RECENT EVENTS, THE GENERAL SAID, WERE "CONDEMNABLE" AND "ABSURD." THE RECENT EVOLUTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD BEEN A FAVORABLE SIGN FOR THE WHOLE OF EUROPE.

THE COUNTRY WAS INCORPORATED INTO THE SOVIET BLOC WHEN IT WAS HARDLY OUT OF THE SHADOW OF NAZI TYRRANY. YET IT HAD BEGUN TO "TAKE POSSESSION OF ITSELF AND OPEN UP A LITTLE TO THE WEST."

THANKS TO THE FORCE OF ARMS, THE SOVIET LEADERS HAD DEMANDED AND OBTAINED ITS RETURN TO OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION. THIS WAS CALLED SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY BUT IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN SOVIET HEGEMONY, DE GAULLE SAID.

BUT DE GAULLE SAID WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- THE ASPIRATIONS AND THE NATIONAL COHESION OF THE PEOPLE -- SHOWED THAT FRENCH POLICY HAD BEEN RIGHT AND IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROFOUND FEELINGS OF THE EUROPEANS.

IT WAS "TOO LATE," THE GENERAL SAID, FOR A FOREIGN DOMINANCE TO WIN THE ADHESION OF A NATION, EVEN IF THAT NATION'S TERRITORY WAS OCCUPIED. IT WAS "TOO LATE" FOR ANY IDEOLOGY TO WIN OUT OVER THE SENTIMENTS OF A NATION. AND IT WAS "TOO LATE" TO BE ABLE TO KEEP EUROPE CUT IN HALF FOREVER.

FRANCE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE AND FOR FREEDOM OF MAN, DE GAULLE SAID.

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