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FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY COMMUNIQUE

PARIS AFP IN FRENCH 1229 GMT 26 AUG 68 C

(TEXT) PARIS--THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY IS ASKING THE SOVIETS TO WITHDRAW THEIR MILITARY FORCES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS REQUEST, INCLUDED IN A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE POLITICAL BUREAU, SHOWS THAT THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS ARE PUTTING EMPHASIS ON THEIR CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION AND THAT THEY ARE GIVING EVIDENCE OF A GROWING SYMPATHY FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, EVEN IF THEY FORMERLY FELT CONCERN IN REGARD TO THE ACTION THAT REACTIONARY ELEMENTS WERE CARRYING OUT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNDER COVER OF THE JUST EFFORTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY TO DEVELOP SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY.

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY'S COMMUNIQUE IS THE THIRD COMMUNIQUE IT HAS ISSUED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE EVENTS. IN THE FIRST IT EXPRESSED ITS SURPRISE AND DISAPPROVAL OF THE INTERVENTION OF THE WARSAW PACT FORCES. IN THE SECOND, FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, IT RESUMED THIS CONDEMNATION BUT BLENDED IT WITH CONSIDERATIONS ON THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTIES, WHICH CAUSED CERTAIN OBSERVERS TO SAY THAT THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY HAD TAKEN A STEP BACKWARD. THE COMMUNIST LEADERS QUICKLY DENIED THIS INTERPRETATION VIGOROUSLY IN INTERVIEWS AND EDITORIALS.

TODAY, THE EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE PARTY'S MAIN ORGAN L'HUMANITE EMPHASIZES ONCE AGAIN THE CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION, CALLING IT A TERRIBLE MISTAKE. RENE ANDRIEU'S EDITORIAL ENTITLED, SIGNIFICANTLY, "TO AVOID THE WORST" SPEAKS, IN ADDITION, OF THE DIGNITY AND WISDOM OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE, STRICKEN BY AN UNJUST FATE. OBSERVERS NOTE THAT, IN THIS MANNER, THE REACTIONS OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY APPEAR TO DRAW PERCEPTIBLY NEARER THE REACTIONS OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, WHICH FROM THE BEGINNING HAD APPEARED MORE VIGOROUS.

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