

Munich, 4 November 1968 (EERA/Robinson)

Summary: Printed below are excerpts from an unsigned article published in the October 27 issue of the political weekly Magyarorszag. Entitled "On the Way to Recovery," the article admits that the Czechoslovak government and National Assembly "disagreed" with the Warsaw Pact military intervention and asserts that there are "no doubts" that the CPCS can now cope with the tasks demanded by the requirements of "normalization" and "consolidation."

It should be recalled that as late as August 30, Politburo member Lajos Fehér had insisted that Warsaw Pact troops had been invited into Czechoslovakia by "Party and state officials." It should also be noted by way of contrast that recent articles in the Soviet, Polish and East German press have cast serious doubt on the ability of the CPCS to cope even now with the requirements of "normalization." Thus, Hungary continues to maintain a stand distinct from that of her other four allies.

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#### In the Name of Realities

It is well-known that when the units of five of the Warsaw Pact countries -- motivated by socialist solidarity and the intention to help -- entered Czechoslovak territory on August 21 to avert the danger threatening the socialist regime and the achievements of a friendly country, the Czechoslovak government and parliament disagreed with this action. Moreover, a major part of the Czechoslovak public opinion was too strongly under the effect of the nationalistic propaganda of anti-socialist forces, and failed to understand the reasons which prompted the decision of the sister countries. Though the Czechoslovak leaders admitted that the allied countries and the sister Parties had every reason to be anxious about the sudden advance of the enemies of socialism, they persisted in their opinion that with their Party policy, which abstained from power measures and desired to convince the enemy, they would have mastered the situation themselves and defeated the anti-socialist and anti-Party forces....

It is impossible not to agree with the standpoint taken by the Czechoslovak CP, that consolidation cannot mean a return to the pre-January situation. The correction of the errors and aberrations of the Novotny era, the liquidation of illegalities, the democratization of the state and social system, trust in the Party and the stabilization of the Party's leading role, the reform of economic planning and management, the solution of minority problems on the basis of principles, the settlement of the legal status of Czechs and Slovaks -- these were all correct targets set by the January plenary

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session of the Czechoslovak CC, supported from the very beginning and still supported by the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. Nothing has changed in the evaluation of the guide lines taken by the January plenary session; it was the Czechoslovak situation which underwent a change, when the process started by the Czechoslovak CC was joined by revisionist and openly anti-socialist forces, which planned to undermine the Party's leading role and the position of socialism.

The danger inherent in this situation was already discovered at the May CC session, when the necessity of a struggle on two fronts was stated: "In the Party's mind the essential of the present situation is that the socialist characteristics of the power and social system should not be impaired, that this should not be done from any side -- neither by rightist anti-Communist tendencies, nor by the conservative forces."

There can be no question that the present process of consolidation will lead to a differentiation of the struggle on two fronts, and that the forces loyal to socialism will separate themselves from those persons who lined up behind the Party only for tactical reasons and for the sake of appearances. The implementation of the correct resolutions passed at the January and May plenary CC sessions will remain vital parts of the process of normalization.

On October 28, the peoples of sisterly Czechoslovakia will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of an independent Czech and Slovak state. It so happens that this jubilee coincides with a period in which great problems await solution. However, the past of the Czechoslovak people and of their strong working class, their democratic traditions, their ability to stand their ground in the most difficult periods, their great achievements in the construction of socialism, leave us in no doubt that now, too, they will be able to cope with the multitude of tasks ahead and will start in a spirit of revival the second half-century of Czechoslovakia's history.

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