

25 October 1968

EAST GERMAN DEMANDS ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP

Summary: In the section of his speech dealing with the Czechoslovak situation, Politburo spokesman Gerhard Grueneberg enumerated to the Ninth SED/CC Plenum the conditions which the Czechoslovak Party and government would have to fulfill in order to satisfy the "true Marxist-Leninists." These conditions are similar to various versions of the secret Moscow Protocol which have circulated in the West. The publication, however, represents the first official Communist announcement of the demands made on the CSSR by Moscow and its four allies.

Having previously accused the Czechoslovak leadership of neglecting to inform the population of the conditions stipulated by the Moscow, Cierna and Bratislava agreements, the SED has taken it upon itself to publish its version of the demands made on the CPCS by the Warsaw Five. In the section of his speech which dealt with Czechoslovak events, Politburo spokesman Gerhard Grueneberg enumerated a number of conditions.

The speaker began by claiming that an increasing number of Czechoslovak Party members and workers had started to realize that everything must be done to re-establish the leading role of the CPCS. From materials alleged to be published in the CSSR, he continued, the true Marxist-Leninists demand the following things: (1)

1. That the CSSR consistently implement the resolutions of the Cierna nad Tisou, Bratislava and Moscow agreements;

1. Neues Deutschland, 22 October 1968.

2. That as a member of the Warsaw Pact, the CSSR conduct a foreign policy consistent with the agreements of Karlovy Vary and with the bilateral Friendship and Mutual Assistance Treaties; and that the CSSR synchronize its foreign policy with these partners;

3. That the CSSR lead a determined struggle against bourgeois ideology and for the elimination of anti-socialist and counterrevolutionary forces;

4. That the Party control the mass media in the sense of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and that it place reliable cadres at the head of the mass media organs;

5. That the Party eliminate from the mass media, and from the Party and state, those elements which are anti-socialist, revisionist and nationalist;

6. That the CSSR dissolve all anti-socialist and counter-revolutionary clubs, organizations and associations and forbid their existence;

7. That the CSSR collaborate with the headquarters of the allied troops to strengthen the socialist order, to fight counterrevolutionary elements and to safeguard the Western borders of the country by every means;

8. That no pogroms or any other discrimination against any CS citizens who stand for Marxist-Leninist friendship with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries be permitted;

9. That the CSSR take the necessary steps against the international campaign at the UN which has been initiated by US imperialism, aimed at the military assistance operation of the socialist countries;

10. That the Party declares the so-called 14th Party Congress invalid;

11. That the convening of the 14th Party Congress be postponed until the situation in the country is normalized;

12. That the behavior of all those government leaders who have been abroad since 20 August be evaluated critically and that the consequences of this evaluation be taken into account when deciding their further employment.

Following the above enumeration, Grueneberg stated that the situation in the CSSR is still fraught with contradictions. On the one hand, the process of normalization is said to have progressed; on the other hand, "there are still members in the Czechoslovak leadership who do not carry on a consistent fight against anti-socialist and counterrevolutionary elements." According to Grueneberg, these leaders fail to inform the population about the true reasons for the bankruptcy of the

former revisionist course. They try to continue this course "under cover" in order to gain time and while simultaneously they incite nationalist feelings. This, the speaker said, is currently particularly acute because of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the Czechoslovak state.

Conclusion

If, as has been the case in the past, the SED Politburo spokesman speaks not only for the SED, but for the Soviet Union and the hard core of the invaders, the demands made on the CSSR are harsh indeed. All reformers are to be removed from all Party and state functions. Those who are outside the country are to be disowned. No independent foreign policy will be permitted and collaborators with the invaders should be honored. Judging by Grueneberg's remarks following the enumeration of these demands, the SED and its associates are highly dissatisfied with the present CPCS leadership, and it is likely that they will not stop their agitation against Dubcek and his colleagues until the situation in Czechoslovakia conforms to the plan outlined by Grueneberg.

Dorothy Miller