

ON THE CZECH CRISIS

The Revolutionary Marxist Tendency of the Fourth International denounces the campaign of intimidation, denigration and slanders by the Soviet Party and State spokesmen against Czechoslovakia. This campaign aims at ending the "liberalisation" begun in Czechoslovakia at the beginning of the year. Pretending to fight "anti-socialist" elements and safeguard "socialism" in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet bureaucracy is supporting the most backward elements in the Czechoslovak Communist Party involved in the ignominious trial of the Fifties (for example the Slansky trial) and grouped around Novotny whose removal was a popular demand.

Because the present Czech CP leadership continue in its orientation which in certain regards corresponds to the aspirations of the workers, the Soviet bureaucracy or at least its most backward wing is no more content to simply slander. It has threatened more or less direct intervention in Brejnev's more recent speeches which alluded to Hungary in 1956. Opposing all reforms opening the way to socialist democracy even in the most timid and deformed way, the present Soviet Party and State spokesmen act to prevent any repercussions in the Soviet Union itself from the anti-bureaucratic struggle in other countries transitional to socialism.

For that reason the Soviet bureaucracy is forced to present a travesty of the Czech situation to prepare the Soviet public opinion through the meetings now taking place throughout the USSR for possible sanctions or pr even intervention.

Conservative forces in Czechoslovakia itself are still powerful and to defeat them it will be necessary to mobilise the workers in self-governing bodies : committees councils etc..

Any attempt by the "renovating" forces to channel workers' action and bargain their support for a compromise with conservative forces can only encourage those nostalgic for stalinism and compromise the present policy.

Given the gravity of the threats, the defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic now in danger has become the concern of workers throughout the world.

International Secretariat
Revolutionary Marxist Tendency of the
Fourth International.

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