

STATEMENT
ON
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BY THE
COMMUNIST PARTY
OF BRITAIN
(MARXIST-LENINIST)

STATEMENT ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA
BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST - LENINIST)

The revisionist leadership of the Soviet Union has committed an act of imperialist aggression against the people of Czechoslovakia. The country of the great October Revolution, the first Workers State in history, has been betrayed by its wretched leaders, Brezhnev and Kosygin, the heirs of the anti-Marxist Khrushchev, into appearing in the eyes of the world like U.S. imperialism in Vietnam.

The Soviet Red Army with which workers everywhere identified their own interests as it defeated the interventionist powers that tried to strangle the proletarian revolution at birth, as it rolled back the armies of Nazi Germany and liberated the whole of Eastern Europe has now been used by the revisionist leaders of the Soviet Union to invade one of those very East European countries in order to bring it to heel.

The same leadership which has preached peace in season and out has not hesitated to use armed force against a smaller neighbouring state. They proclaimed the principle of peaceful co-existence when it meant betraying the world revolutionary struggle against the imperialist powers headed by the U.S. They proclaimed the principle of peaceful transition when it meant disarming workers in the face of the capitalist class enemy. But when it came to dealing with a tiresome satellite state of its own, nothing was heard of their devotion to the cause of 'peace.'

To understand how the crime of imperialist aggression came to be committed by the Soviet revisionist leadership on August 20th, it is necessary to appreciate the complete reversal of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union from the time of Khrushchev on. The foreign policy of the Soviet Union under the dictatorship of the proletariat, established by Lenin and defended by Stalin, was based on proletarian internationalism -unrelenting opposition to the aggressive policies of imperialism and fraternal support to workers movements anywhere in revolt against imperialist domination. From the time that Khrushchevian revisionists replaced the workers' state in the Soviet Union with the "state of the whole people" which meant eroding the dictatorship of the proletariat to restore a bourgeois dictatorship, the foreign policy of the Soviet Union has

been based/

been based on an agreement with U.S. imperialism to divide the world up between them into two spheres of influence. The U.S. could do what it liked to secure its economic aggrandisement in its own sphere and the Soviet leadership hoped to be allowed by the U.S. to do the same in its sphere.

This collusion between the two blocs is illustrated by the fact that when the Soviet leaders decided to invade Czechoslovakia, they informed Washington first, and throughout the whole crisis the U.S. leaders have raised only token objections. As a result of U.S. defeat in Vietnam they are much too anxious for Soviet assistance in getting a negotiated settlement with Hanoi to try to take advantage at this time of the Soviet leadership's difficulties in its own East European sphere. How different from their reactions over Hungary in 1956 before the principles of world-wide collaboration between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. began to be worked out at the Camp David talks between Eisenhower and Khrushchev in 1959 and before it became obvious that the Soviet leadership was no longer concerned with defending socialism either at home or abroad.

The Soviet leadership's claim that they invaded Czechoslovakia to defend "socialist gains" is absurd because that leadership has been busily engaged in rejecting socialism and restoring capitalism in the Soviet Union itself. Furthermore, it is an absolutely established principle of Marxism that revolutions cannot be exported and that socialism cannot be imposed nor reimposed on another country by force of arms. The intervention could only have been justified if the workers of Czechoslovakia, in danger of being suppressed by their own reactionary government or of being invaded by a Western imperialist power, had asked the Soviet Union for assistance on the basis of proletarian internationalism.

What the Soviet leadership is defending in Czechoslovakia is not socialism, but the political, economic and military subordination of certain countries in Eastern Europe- the system whereby the new ruling class in the Soviet Union controls the trading relationships of these countries for its own imperialist advantage, thus turning them into satellites. Albania, which alone of these countries refused to submit to such domination and continued to build a socialist society relying on the efforts of its own working people, accurately characterised the attitude/

attitude of the Soviet leadership toward the Dubcek regime before the act of aggression took place. "The Soviet revisionist leadership accuse the revisionist Dubcek clique of everything they themselves had done previously and on a large scale. In other words, they are telling the Dubcek clique: 'You must not have ties with the United States of America, but we should; you must not maintain diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Germany, but we should; you must not receive credits from the capitalists, but we should' and so on."

The claim of the Soviet leadership to be defending socialism in Czechoslovakia is also absurd because, under their faithful revisionist stooge Novotny, long before the more recent revisionist adventurer Dubcek came to power, socialism had been rejected and the dictatorship of the proletariat dismantled in favour of a bourgeois restoration. In terms of betraying the real interests of the working people of Czechoslovakia there is nothing to choose between Novotny and Dubcek; but the latter incurred the wrath of the Soviet leadership by trying to obtain additional economic advantages for his own faction through dealing directly with the Western imperialist countries. The 'freedom' and 'liberalisation' Dubcek is advocating which has been hailed by the bourgeois press in the West is bourgeois freedom, bourgeois liberalisation - consumer goods and consumer culture imported from the West for the new Czech bourgeoisie. It represents a further curtailment of the freedom of the working class in Czechoslovakia and the final elimination of proletarian culture.

At the every time when the great proletarian cultural revolution in China under the leadership of Mao Tse-Tung is consolidating socialism and imbuing the Chinese working masses with a socialist morality of fighting self-interest for the collective good, the workers of Czechoslovakia have been portrayed by their revisionist leadership, taking their cue from the world centre of revisionism in Moscow, as really wanting multiple parties, freedom of expression for bourgeois intellectuals and the selfish pursuit of material benefits. That is the real tragedy of Czechoslovakia and it began a long time ago.

Twenty three years after the setting up of a worker's state which should have been the guarantee of a socialist future the working people of Czechoslovakia, thanks to revisionism, find themselves bereft of power in a country whose economy is stagnant and whose future is determined by the unprincipled haggling of the revisionist pack in Moscow.

Dubcek, /

Dubcek, the darling of Western publicists, did not even have the courage of his anti-Marxist revisionist convictions and having provoked the ire of the Soviet leadership urged the people of Czechoslovakia not to resist the invasion of their country while patching up a compromise settlement behind their backs with that same Soviet leadership.

As between the Soviet revisionist leadership which has betrayed world socialism and the Czechoslovak revisionist leadership which has betrayed socialism in Czechoslovakia, the Communist Party of Britain (ML) does not support either as the lesser of two evils. That would be like the revisionist Communist Party of Great Britain urging its members to support the Labour Party as a lesser evil than the Tory Party when they are both parties of British imperialism and enemies of the working class. We utterly repudiate all revisionists everywhere. Our support is for the working people of the Soviet Union who under Lenin's leadership made the October Revolution and will surely rise up against the revisionist faction which has betrayed them and their proletarian brothers all over the world. Our support is for the working people of Czechoslovakia who will surely learn from their recent experiences to denounce their own revisionist leaders, whether old-style Novotny or new-style Dubcek, and re-establish the dictatorship of the proletariat so that their country can go forward in the great company of the peoples of China and Albania and all others who firmly reject the vicious exploitative system of capitalism and take the socialist road away from the exploitation in any form of man by man.

We call on all those members of the revisionist C.P.G.B. who have seen to what straits revisionism has brought the workers of the U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia and who realise that revisionists cannot even preserve a revolution, let alone make one to reject once and for all the sham communist party which the leaders of the C.P.G.B. have made of it and rally to the Marxist-Leninist banner we are raising in the real interests of the workers of Britain. In the Soviet Union proletarian revolution, made and defended at great sacrifice under the leadership of the working class, has been betrayed. In Britain what has been betrayed by the social democrats of the Labour Party, and the revisionist hacks of the C.P.G.B. who are indistinguishable from them is the every effort to unite the working class behind a vanguard revolutionary party so that the real struggle can begin.

Wilson/

Wilson who dares to call himself a Labour leader heads a government which has launched an all-out attack on British workers in the interest of British capitalism and seeks the support of U.S. imperialism to have a share in the world carve-up between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. His crocodile tears for the poor people of Czechoslovakia while supervising the more intensive exploitation of workers in Britain and the colonial and neo-colonial territories will not fool the militant workers of Britain.

The workers of Britain must have a workers party dedicated to the achievement of working class power through revolutionary struggle undeflected by bourgeois-revisionist clap-trap about parliamentary roads and peaceful transition which only means revolution when the ruling class permits it. The workers of Britain must make the Communist Party of Britain (ML) their own proletarian party.

"The people of all countries," Mao Tse-Tung has said, "the masses comprising more than ninety per cent of the entire population, sooner or later want revolution and will support Marxism-Leninism. Though some people may support revisionism for a while, they will eventually cast it aside...They are bound to oppose the imperialists and reactionaries in all countries; they are bound to oppose revisionism!"

Issued by; The Communist Party of
Britain (Marxist-Leninist)
c/o 155, Fortess Road,
LONDON. N.W.5.

