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Authority RAC-NLS 001-180-3-11
By ins, NARA, Date 12-20-01

~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

CITE [REDACTED] (ADVANCE) 25X1A

COUNTRY: ITALY/CZECHOSLOVAKIA

TO: [REDACTED] 25X1X

SUBJECT: ITALIAN COMMUNIST LEADERS' REACTIONS TO INVASION OF
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ACQ:
SOURCE:

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1. THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAUGHT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE. DURING THE MORNING OF 21 AUGUST, A HASTILY CONVOKED MEETING OF THE DIREZIONE MET TO ISSUE A STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU. ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF THIS LATER BODY WERE PRESENT, PIETRO INGRAO AND GIORGIO NAPOLETANO; ONGO, AMENDOLA, BERLINGUER, PAJETTA AND MACALUSO WERE ON VACATION. THE MEETING CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL TO ISSUE AN IMMEDIATE STATEMENT DISAPPROVING THE SOVIET MARCH INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE TEXT WAS THEN READ OVER THE TELEPHONE TO LUIGI LONGO, WHO WAS IN MOSCOW, AND APPROVED BY HIM.

2. SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS CONDEMNED BY ALL CURRENTS IN THE PCI, INCLUDING EVEN THE REMAINING OLD STALINISTS. DEEP DEPRESSION AND WORRY REIGNED AT PCI HEADQUARTERS OVER THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF CZECH EVENTS, BOTH INTERNATIONALLY AND IN ITALY. THE SOVIET ACTION CONDEMNS THE DUBCEK COURSE WHICH THE PCI HAD SUPPORTED AND EXALTED AS THE FORERUNNER OF AN "ITALIAN ROAD TO SOCIALISM," AND BY IMPLICATION DAMNS PCI POLICIES OF THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE [REDACTED]
REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~
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