

283

26 Aug 68  
DSG

UPI-43

(CZECHS)

NEW YORK--GUS HALL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE U.S. COMMUNIST PARTY, SAID WEDNESDAY THE SOVIET-LED INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA PROBABLY WAS NECESSARY TO HEAD OFF AN "IMPERIALIST" TAKEOVER.

"THE CENTRAL ISSUE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS THE DEFENSE OF SOCIALISM AGAINST THE SPREAD OF COUNTER-REVOLUTION," HALL SAID. "IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE COURSE OF THE PROCESS OF VITAL DEMOCRATIC REFORM IS AN UPSRUGE OF ANTISOCIALIST ELEMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE FORCES OF SUBVERSION OF U.S. AND WEST GERMAN MILITARISM."

HALL SAID HE "REGRETTED THAT MATTERS HAVE COME TO SUCH A PASS" BECAUSE MILITARY SOLUTIONS "ARE NEVER THE BEST." HE SAID THE COMMUNISTS IN THIS COUNTRY DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO KNOW WHETHER RUSSIA HAD ANY ALTERNATIVE.

-2-