

11.11.68

ROME, MAR. 11.--(RFE SPECIAL).-- THE OFFICIAL ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT DAILY, IL POPOLO, STRESSED YESTERDAY IN AN EDITORIAL THAT STUDENTS IN WARSAW AND PRAGUE LACK DEMOCRACY.

THE PAPER SAID:

"WE HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT, IN OUR OPINION, THE COMMON ELEMENT IN ALL THE UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATIONS OF THE WORLD IS LACK OF FREEDOM.

"WHAT HAPPENED A FEW DAYS AGO IN PRAGUE AND WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW IN WARSAW CONFIRMS THIS IDEA.

"BUT -- AND THIS MUST BE SAID CLEARLY -- THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE.

"IN OUR COUNTRY, IN ITALY, THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS... DEPARTED FROM AN ALREADY CONSOLIDATED PLATFORM OF FREEDOM.

"THEIR REQUESTS ARE THEREFORE -- IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS AND EXCEPTING EXCESSES -- REQUESTS FOR WHAT WE ALL DEMAND AND ARE WORKING FOR, THAT IS, AN AMPLIFICATION OF THE EXISTING FREEDOM AND A REINFORCEMENT OF DEMOCRACY.

"WHAT THE POLISH AND CZECHOSLOVAK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE ASKING, INSTEAD, IS THE INITIATION OF DEMOCRACY AND THE INITIATION OF FREEDOM, THE END OF THE UNLIBERAL AND NONDEMOCRATIC REGIMES.

"OUR STUDENTS ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE CONDITIONS AND FOUNDATIONS OF DEPARTURE THAT ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT AND OPPOSITE.

JPT/E 1338/68