

10.11.68

RUSS - SOVIET PRESS SILENT ON EVENTS IN WARSAW, PRAGUE

MOSCOW, MARCH 10 (REUTER) - THE SOVIET PRESS TODAY MAINTAINED SILENCE ON THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN POLAND AND GROWING DEMANDS FOR THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT ANTONIN NOVOTNY, IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

BUT READERS INTERESTED IN EVENTS IN THESE COUNTRIES FOUND REPORTS FROM BOTH WARSAW AND PRAGUE -- ON LESS DISTURBING HAPPENINGS.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, PRAVDA, IN ITS DAILY "NEWS FROM THE COUNTRIES OF SOCIALISM" COLUMN, CARRIED A REPORT FROM ITS PRAGUE CORRESPONDENT ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAK METALLURGISTS HELPING FARMERS.

LAST WEEK SOVIET NEWSPAPERS GAVE FAIRLY EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES IN ITALY.

PRAVDA DEVOTED ABOUT HALF ITS FRONT PAGE TODAY TO AN EDITORIAL HAILING THE SUCCESS OF THE BUDAPEST COMMUNIST CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE WHICH ENDED LAST WEEK WITH A DECISION TO HOLD A WORLD COMMUNIST SUMMIT IN MOSCOW AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.

NOWHERE IN THE EDITORIAL, WHICH RESTATED KNOWN SOVIET POSITIONS ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT, WAS THERE ANY REFERENCE TO THE RUMANIAN WALK-OUT FROM THE CONFERENCE.

SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO PRESS COMMENT HERE ON THE SOFIA MEETING OF EAST EUROPEAN PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS AT WHICH RUMANIA DECLINED TO SIGN A JOINT STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE U.S.-SOVIET DRAFT NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

JT/HE

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