

# COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

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SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 1968

## C Z E C H O S L O V A K I A

Meeting in London on Saturday, August 24, the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party **issued** the following **statement**:

The Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Great Britain deeply deplores the military intervention in Czechoslovakia on Tuesday, August 20th, by troops of the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic.

We endorse the statement issued by the Political Committee on August 21st to this effect, which was in accordance with the position adopted at the July meeting of the E.C. We then expressed our solidarity with the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and said that:

"...any actual intervention would only play into the hands of anti-socialists and anti-Soviet forces in Czechoslovakia and give them the opportunity to play on nationalist feelings so as to stir up opposition to the leadership of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and to the Soviet Union".

The military intervention which took place had no support from any leading body in the Czechoslovak Communist Party or state and is opposed by them. No grounds have been brought forward that can justify this violation of the national sovereignty of the Czechoslovak people and Government.

Equally deplorable is the intervention from outside the country to remove some of the leaders of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and to prevent them carrying out their duties, less than three weeks before the Party Congress was due to open on September 9th. This is a gross violation of the democratic rights of the Czechoslovak Communists.