The Revolutionary Marxist Tendency of the Fourth International denounces the campaign of intimidation, denigration and slanders by the Soviet Party and State spokesmen against Czechoslovakia. This campaign aims to end the "liberalization" begun in Czechoslovakia at the beginning of the year. Pretending to fight "anti-socialist" elements and safeguard "socialism" in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet bureaucracy is supporting the most backward elements in the Czechoslovak Communist Party involved in the ignominious trial of the Fisites (for example the Shonky trial) and grouped around Novotny whose removal was a popular demand.

Because the present Czech CF leadership continue in its orientation which in certain regards corresponds to the aspirations of the workers, the Soviet bureaucracy at least for its backward wing is no more content to simply slander. It has threatened more or less direct intervention in Brejnev's most recent speeches which tutelated to Hungary in 1956. Opposing all reforms opening the way to social democracy even in the most timid and deformed way, the present Soviet Party and State spokesmen set to provoke any repercussions in the Soviet Union itself from the anti-bureaucratic struggle in other countries transitional to socialism.

For that reason the Soviet bureaucracy is forced to present a travesty of the Czech situation to prepare the Soviet public opinion through the meetings now taking place throughout the USSR for possible sanctions or even intervention.

Conservative forces in Czechoslovakia itself are still powerful and to defeat them it will be necessary to mobilise the workers in self-governing bodies: committees, councils etc.

Any attempt by the 'removing' forces to channel workers' action and bargain in their support for a compromise with conservative forces can only encourage those nostalgic for Stalinism and compromise the present policy.

Given the gravity of the threats, the defence of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic now in danger has become the concern of workers throughout the world.

International Secretariat
Revolutionary Marxist Tendency of the Fourth International.

1 July 1968.

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