

that neither at home nor abroad can communism accept democratic rules". "We hope the Federation of the Left will break its alliances with the Communist Party", said

Stalinist "old guard" which ran the party in the time of M. Rochet's predecessor, Maurice Thorez.

In spite of its unprecedented

opposition to any military intervention from outside, both to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and to the Czechoslovak Communist Party."

deplora
action

From Our Own Co

British communists call for immediate withdrawal

By a Staff Reporter

The Communist Party of Great Britain last night condemned the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia as "completely unjustified" and called for an immediate withdrawal of troops.

A statement issued after an all-day meeting between 11 of the 14 members of the political committee said: "We deplore the entry of troops of some of the Warsaw Pact countries into Czechoslovakia.

"We have made clear in our previous statements our view that differences between Communist parties should be resolved by discussions on the basis of mutual trust and confidence, and where socialist countries are concerned, respecting the sovereignty of each country.

"The Czechoslovak Communist Party leadership has been engaged in the difficult task of rectifying wrong policies pursued in the past, and strengthening socialist democracy.

"It has warned of the activities of anti-socialist forces in the country and their attempts to take advantage of this process, and has been taking measures to deal with them. It was making preparations for the forthcoming Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party on September 9, at which the future policy of the party was to be decided.

"Whatever differences of view there might be among socialist countries about developments in Czechoslovakia, in our view, military intervention is completely unjustified.

"We welcomed the results of the Cierna and Bratislava meetings because we considered that they showed that on the basis of mutual trust, confidence and understanding it is possible to find an agreed basis for dealing with problems affecting socialist countries.

"If there was dissatisfaction on the part of any of the participants with the carrying out of the understandings reached, there should have been further discussions to try to resolve the problems.

"The anxiety of all socialist countries about the security of the socialist system and the constant threat from imperialism is shared by communists everywhere.

"The hypocritical attempt of the imperialists, including former Munichites in Britain, and Hitler's successors in west Germany, to pose as friends of Czechoslovakia, is a cover for the bitter enmity which they have always shown, and still show, towards its people. This enmity was all the stronger since Czechoslovakia became a socialist state.

"But we consider that the way to defend socialism and rebuff imperialism is to establish voluntary and mutual cooperation between the socialist states and communist parties, based on the national sovereignty and autonomy of each party and government.

"We express the hope that agreement will be reached on the immediate withdrawal of the troops of the five countries from Czechoslovakia, and relations between their governments and parties and the Czechoslovak Government and party reestablished on a normal basis."

Mr. Reuben Falber, assistant secretary of the party, said afterwards that the statement was unanimous. "This is a very grave situation, and we think every word of the statement should be very carefully considered", he said.

Mr. Falber chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr. John Gollan, general secretary of the party and secretary of its political committee. Mr. Gollan is on holiday in a remote part of Scotland. Mr. Falber said: "He tends to spend his holidays climbing mountains.

He probably left early this morning to start climbing and when he gets down he will find a telegram asking him to ring me."

Most members of the political committee were in London when they received urgent calls to meet because of the "grave" emergency. Mr. Falber said they had taken "extraordinary steps" to consult every committee member who could not attend immediately.

Mr. James Reid, the party's Scottish secretary, was asked to fly from Glasgow, and was met at the airport with a "fistful of sixpences" so that he could telephone the party headquarters and hear the statement. Mr. Bert Pearce, the Welsh secretary, was urged to get the next train from Cardiff. Both men arrived before the meeting was over.

Throughout the meeting committee members broke off to hear the radio bulletins. They were not in contact with other west European communist parties, nor with either the Soviet or the Czechoslovak embassy.

Mr. Falber said the British party was always working for the unity of international communism on a basis of non-interference. Asked if the crisis foreshadowed a break-up of world communism or of a split between the British and Soviet parties, he said: "These are things we shall have to consider."

He thought the invasion would help the American effort in Vietnam because it would appear that the communist world was split. But he saw little possibility of membership of the British party falling off, as it did after the Hungarian uprising in 1956, when he was the party's national election agent.

"During the day we have had a number of telephone calls and letters from members of party organizations, all of whom asked us to make a statement along the lines of the one we have made", he said.

Sharp Italian party rebuke

From PAUL HORNE—Rome, Aug. 21

Leaders of the Italian Communist Party, the largest in western Europe, sharply condemned the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia and reaffirmed the party's support for the "action" of

Czechoslovakia's relations with other socialist states.

The Italian party had thrown its full support behind the Czech cause. "Given this state of affairs", the statement said, "it is incomprehensible how the party

conducted by the Czechoslovak Communist Party."

The Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (C.G.I.L.), Italy's largest and communist-dominated trade union confederation, also condemned the

General de C

attacked the Russia in Czechoslovakia, b
fringement of that c
and as being contrar
ciples of his own f
A statement issued
dent's press office in

"The armed inter
Soviet Union in C
shows that the Mo
ment has not yet fr
the policy of block
imposed on Europe
of the Yalta agreem
incompatible with
peoples to decide t
and which could onl
lead to international

"France, which
part in these agree
not adopted this pol
deplores the fact th
in Prague, besides c
infringement of th
destiny of a friend
likely to obstruct
detente, such as sh
practised and tried
others, which alone
peace."

The statement wa
a meeting at Colon
Eglises, where the
spending his summe
was attended by M
Murville, the Prime
M. Michel Debre,
Minister, who flew
different parts of
they were themselves

The French Gov
informed of the So
Mr. Valerian Zori
Ambassador in Pari
at the Elysée Palace
saw M. Bernard Tri
itary-general of the P
Tricot telephoned to
at Colombey.

This morning the
in front of the So
here was strengthe
public opinion has
unanimous hostility
vasion. The commu
Confédération G
Travail (the largest
unions) declared t
workers can only de
sent military interve

Movements which
ing part in the even
France, such as
Socialist Party, the
Francaise Democ
Travail, the Nation
French Students, and
Union of Univers
have also declared
to the Russian inter