

SOLIDARITY WITH THE SOCIALIST YOUTH OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA!

Statement by the National Executive Committee
of the Young Socialist Alliance
August 21, 1968

The invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany has dealt a blow to the cause of the world socialist revolution. It is especially a blow to the new generation of revolutionary youth who, around the world, are fighting for a socialist future for all mankind -- a future which will be characterized by the absence of war, the fullest democracy, and a degree of abundance unknown in man's history.

The Young Socialist Alliance calls on all socialist youth to protest the Soviet regime's attack on the sovereignty of Czechoslovakia. It is a brutal and reactionary violation of socialist principles and norms, such as the right of all nations to self-determination.

We reject the hypocritical and self-serving call of those Democratic and Republican capitalist politicians who demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia while rejecting the demand that the U.S. respect the right of Vietnam to self-determination and withdraw the American troops.

The socialist youth of America salute the socialist youth of Czechoslovakia -- and the other Eastern European countries -- who have been the driving force behind the democratization which has taken place in Czechoslovakia since last January. It is they, most of all, who have been fighting to restore the concept of a socialist democracy and make it a reality.

It is those who claim to be defending "socialism" -- the bureaucratic misrulers in the Kremlin and their counterparts in Eastern Europe -- and not the communist youth of Czechoslovakia, who are the real opponents of socialist democracy. To them, freedom for revolutionary communists to express their criticisms of the Stalinist bureaucracies was so dangerous and threatening to their own interests that they called it "counter-revolutionary" and occupied the country.

But the struggle for socialism and socialist democracy, the struggle for the right of national self-determination continues despite the invasion of Czechoslovakia. It continues in Vietnam, in Cuba, in black America -- and in Czechoslovakia.

While the Soviet invasion was a direct blow to all these struggles, it will not stop them. Just as the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 helped give birth to the new generation of socialist youth, the Soviet invasion of another worker's state will not be able to stifle the further growth of a world wide revolutionary vanguard.