



Socialism Realised

Life in Communist Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989

August 21, 1968, Prague.

Statement of the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee about the occupation of Czechoslovakia by the armies of five countries of the Warsaw Pact.

To all people of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Yesterday, 20.8.1968, at around 11pm, armed forces from the Soviet Union, the Polish People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Hungarian People's Republic and the Bulgarian People's Republic crossed over the state borders of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

This happened without the knowledge of the president of the country, the chairman of the National Assembly, the chairman of the government, or the General Secretary of the Communist Party and its authorities.

In these hours, the Presidium of the Central Committee was meeting about preparations for the XIV Party Congress.

The Presidium of the Central Committee calls on all citizens of our republic to keep calm and not put up any resistance to the advancing armies.

Therefore, not even our army, State Security, or the People's Militia have received orders to defend the country.

The Presidium the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia considers this act as defying not only the fundamental relationship between socialist countries, but also as a negation of the basic norms of international law.

All leading officials of the state, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and the National Front will stay in the positions that they were voted into as representatives of the people and members of their organizations according to the laws and other norms that apply in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Government officials are immediately called to a meeting of the National Assembly, the government of the republic.

The Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee calls for a Plenary Session of the Central Committee to a discussion on the emerging situation.

The Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee.