

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Above all, no international order can be founded or can exist on the self-appointed right of any government or group of governments to impose their policies on other sovereign states by force. The invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union and some of its allies, was nothing less than the assertion of a proprietary right of a great power to exercise domination over Eastern Europe under the guise of a "fraternal" ideological relation. It was naked power politics without regard to the Charter of the United Nations. Have the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and its allies forgotten that, less than two years ago, this Assembly, by a vote of 109 to none declared:

"No state has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other states. Consequently, armed intervention and all other forms of interference or attempted threats against the personality of the state or against its political, economic and cultural elements, are condemned."

Although we are bound to take note of the wishes of the Government of Czechoslovakia that the Security Council refrain from further action at this time, the Council quite rightly remains seized of this question, which has profound implications for the independence and sovereignty of all member states. The concern of members of the United Nations for Czechoslovakia, its leaders and its people will inevitably continue until the soil of that country is once again free of foreign troops.

We must also be aware of the danger to peace in Europe arising from recent charges levelled by the Soviet Union against the Federal German Republic and the evocation of an alleged unilateral right of intervention in yet another country. In the view of Canada, no such right exists.

While condemning the Soviet Union and its allies for what they have done, we must be ready to seize every opportunity for serious and constructive discussion of the issues that divide East and West. So long as Soviet troops remain on Czechoslovakian territory, the progress of such discussions will of necessity be slow and cautious. But there is one area in which we must press on: negotiations to end the arms race should be pursued vigorously. Progress on this front will benefit all nations, including Czechoslovakia.

ARMS RACE

Canada -- and no doubt a great majority of members of the United Nations -- was heartened by the announcement of the United States and the Soviet Union on July 1 of their agreement to begin negotiations on the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons, including anti-ballistic missiles. I urge the United States and the Soviet Union to begin these talks without delay and to support the early resumption of negotiations in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee on a comprehensive test-ban, a halt in the production of fissionable material for military purposes and the reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear stock-piles.