

AN ACT WHICH LEGALIZES THE TRANSFORMATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA INTO A COLONY OF THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS

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These days, as has been announced, the so-called Soviet-Czechoslovak Treaty, which legalizes the enslavement of Czechoslovakia by the foreign occupation troops and its complete colonization by the Soviet revisionists, came into effect. In order to camouflage their aggressive and neo-colonialist aims the Moscow revisionists and their spokesmen are loudly proclaiming the Soviet-Czechoslovak «treaty» as an «expression of the free will of equal parties», as a «means of defending socialism from West-German revanchism», and so on and so forth. But all this is rubbish. This «treaty» has further exposed its authors, stripped them naked and revealed their true nature of imperialist aggressors and counter-revolutionary renegades from the peace-loving peoples of the world.

This «treaty» is a scandalous example of the cynicism and villainy of the Soviet revisionists, further evidence of their aggressive and imperialist policy. Right from the start, in its first clause, this document reveals the essence of the «tank diplomacy» because it speaks of an «agreement» between the aggressor and his victim, an «agreement» concluded subsequent to the accom-

plished fact, after the complete military occupation, under the menace of artillery and tanks. The Soviet occupation troops present in Czechoslovakia will remain there forever. This fact is admitted in Clause 1 which states that «the numbers of Soviet troops and the places where they will be stationed» is to be defined later, and that these troops «will be under the Soviet military command». This means legalization of the occupation regime in Czechoslovakia and its complete dependence on the Soviet military occupation command.

Further proof of the cynicism of the Soviet revisionist invaders can be found in Clause 2 of this infamous «treaty» which claims that «the stationing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia does not violate its sovereignty», that «the Soviet troops do not interfere in the internal affairs of the SR. of Czechoslovakia», that they «will respect the Czechoslovak laws». There ought to be a limit even to demagoguery and cynicism, but for the Soviet revisionists there is no limit. The whole world saw that after the 21st of August the sovereignty of Czechoslovakia was crushed under the Soviet tanks, that the Soviet marshals Yakubovski and Pavlovski, together with the gauleiter Kuznetsov, made themselves masters in another's house, that the violence of invaders replaced the Czechoslovak law.

The «treaty» sanctions colonial-type privileges for the Soviet revisionist occupiers. Under Clause 3 of the «treaty», the puppet government of Prague is bound to put at the disposal of the Soviet occupation troops «barracks and dwelling-houses in the garrison towns, service buildings, depots, etc., airfields and stationary installations and other equipment, means of the state network of communications and transport, electric power and other services». Likewise, the shooting-ranges and training grounds of the Czechoslovak army will be used by the Soviet occupa-

tion troops. With these provisions, the Czechoslovak army which has been reduced by the collaborationist trio Dubček-Černík-Svoboda to the miserable role of a stage extra, will now consider itself a stranger in its own home.

In fact, this infamous «treaty» does not in any way recognize the existence of Czechoslovakia as a sovereign state with its own independent socio-economic and juridical order. After trying to solve the Czechoslovak problem *manu militari*, by military violence, the Soviet revisionist imperialists have put themselves in the position of master in the house and settled themselves comfortably at the Czechoslovak table. They have created such privileges for themselves as to enable them to dictate their neo-colonialist will over the whole life of this country — in politics, in the economy, in the socio-cultural field. The Soviet occupation troops and their families can enter or leave Czechoslovakia whenever they wish, without entry or exit visas or customs control. Clause 4 says explicitly, «The Soviet army units, the persons who are part of the effective of the Soviet troops and the members of the families of these persons can go to the place where the Soviet troops are stationed in the SR of Czechoslovakia and return from the SR of Czechoslovakia both by direct trains and carriages which belong to the Soviet Union, or by changing from the carriages of the one country to those of the other, or by air or motor transport. Those persons who are part of the effective of the Soviet troops and the members of their families will not be subject to passport or visa control during their entry to stay in or departure from the SR of Czechoslovakia.» With this provision, the Czechoslovak state border, which symbolizes the sovereignty and integrity of that country, has been turned into a foot-rag, into a broken-down and worthless fence.

The occupation regime and the complete capitulation

and submission of the Dubček-Svoboda revisionist clique is also sanctioned by Clause 5. Under this clause «the Czechoslovak side agrees to allow crossing of the state border of the SR of Czechoslovakia tax-free and without customs or border control, by:

- the Soviet troops and persons who are part of their effective, including units, sub-units and army commands;
- all kinds of military cargo, including those destined for trade and communal purposes of the Soviet troops;
- persons who are part of the effective of the Soviet troops, who enter or leave the SR of Czechoslovakia alone or accompanied by the members of their families, with their personal effects, on presentation to the customs organs of their documents entitling them to cross the state border of the SR of Czechoslovakia.» Further proof of the complete dependence upon the will of the occupier is the fact that all trade and communal services for the effective of the Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory «will be provided through the Soviet trade and communal enterprises»!

The implementation of this «treaty» will inevitably entail a great confusion in the whole economic, commercial and financial life of the country and will make the life of the Czechoslovak working people more difficult. The privileges granted to the invaders to use the local currency in trading, that is, to put into circulation uncontrolled amounts of Czechoslovak banknotes, will inevitably lead to disorder in the whole currency system of the country, to inflation and the further flourishing of the black market and economic speculation. Above all, the Czechoslovak puppet government is obliged to supply the occupation troops with food and industrial products, thus tightening the belt on the people, on the working masses. This is an unforeseen extra burden, a heavy impost which will be a further blow to the Czechoslovak economy, already staggering under the «revisionist reforms».

The true face of the Soviet revisionists as aggressors and imperialist invaders is clearly revealed also in those provisions of this infamous «treaty» which bear on the application of the local law to the occupation troops, their responsibility for the penal offences and contraventions committed by these troops on Czechoslovak soil. In fact, point B of Clause 9 of the «treaty» openly and brazenly sanctions the complete exemption from responsibility of the effective of the Soviet troops «who commit crimes or otherwise violate the law in the performance of their duties in the region where the army units are stationed.» In reality this means that the Czechoslovak law will never be applied to Soviet troops, because they can wash their hands of any arbitrary action or crime they commit, as they are supposedly performing their duties and the whole of Czechoslovakia may be considered «a region for the stationing of Soviet military troops». Finally, in the same clause the «treaty» recognizes the jurisdiction of the Soviet courts in Czechoslovak territory, the competences of the attorney's office and other Soviet organs which will act on the basis of Soviet laws in Czechoslovak territory. This is a revival of the savage colonial law of capitulation which is still in force in a few out-of-the-way colonies of Britain and Portugal! This is tantamount to the recognition of extra-territorial rights, of the unlimited freedom of the invaders to act as and when they wish, in the name of the occupation law and contrary to the laws of the country, thus scornfully deriding the national dignity of the Czechoslovak people.

Understandably, the effective and permanent presence of the Soviet occupation troops in Czechoslovakia, which this «treaty» now legalizes, will exert its influence in all directions on the foreign policy of that country. Already the Czechoslovak collaborationist chieftains have begun to jump to attention, to the commands of the Soviet oc-

cupiers, to obey them in complete servility and do what they dictate. The foreign policy of the puppet government of Prague has now been officially set on the rails of the hegemonic interests of the Soviet revisionist occupiers, and, thus, under these conditions, it can never represent the aspirations and sovereign interests of the Czechoslovak people and can never defend their vital rights. The spirit and provisions of this colonialist «treaty» which has been imposed on Czechoslovakia are by no means concessions «to lighten the occupation», as Černík says, but in fact they legalize this occupation and make the burden of it heavier. This is a dictated treaty and in no way based on «mutual understanding», as the revisionist Kosygin shamelessly lies. This «treaty» is based on the bayonets and tanks of the Soviet revisionist occupiers. Brezhnev's rag, «Pravda», writes about «unity» and «equality». But what unity can there be between the occupier and the occupied; what equality can there be between the rider and the horse?

The fifteen clauses of this enslaving neo-colonialist «treaty» are fifteen new strong knots in the noose placed around the neck of the Czechoslovak people. It is an outcome of the fascist-type aggression against Czechoslovakia. With this «treaty», the freedom, sovereignty and national dignity of the Czechoslovak people have been legally and finally buried. The whole spirit of the «treaty», its purposes and the way of applying it are very similar to those by which Hitler imposed his «new order» on the European quislings or to the agreements between the present-day Hitlerites, the American imperialists, and their smaller partners. In this shameful document there is not the slightest reference to the «normalization» of the situation in Czechoslovakia and the final withdrawal of the occupation troops.

The dictate, prepared in Moscow and signed in Pra-

gue, does not end but further deepens the crisis of the Soviet revisionist clique and the whole revisionist front in Czechoslovakia and everywhere else. It further aggravates the difficult political, economic and social situation in the Soviet Union itself, and the relations between the different revisionist cliques and countries. In particular, it inevitably makes the irreconcilable contradictions between the Soviet revisionist invaders and the freedom-loving Czechoslovak people deeper and more bitter. Seeking to legalize its criminal actions of an imperialist and colonialist by means of a so-called bilateral agreement, the revisionist leadership of Moscow has tried in vain to deceive world public opinion with this «treaty». But with this new act the Soviet revisionists have once again exposed themselves as aggressors, invaders, exploiters and imperialists. As for the Dubček-Černík clique, by signing this «title to occupation», it branded itself once again as a group of renegades, collaborationists and quislings.

But the Czechoslovak people will contemptuously reject this act which legalizes the colonialist occupation of their Homeland. They have accepted neither the aggression, the occupation, nor the «treaty» of the Soviet revisionist aggressors, but on the contrary, they have denounced and opposed all of them, together with the betrayal and capitulation by the Dubček-Černík-Svoboda trio. The fraternal Czechoslovak people, who have great revolutionary traditions, led by their working class and the revolutionary Marxist-Leninists, will certainly extend their resistance and will fight with determination and with every means, even with arms, against the foreign occupiers and the local traitors, for the sacred cause of national liberation and the restoration of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

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