

ISSUE OF SOCIALIST MORALS RAISED BY CZECH WRITER

An article in a Czech literary journal takes issue with any complacent attitudes toward the task of establishing the clear moral supremacy of socialist practice.

The article, entitled "The Need for Courage" was written by K. J. Benes in Literarni Noviny. A sharp criticism of the article appeared shortly after in the Party newspaper, Rude Pravo.

Benes noted that the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party "with one stroke and in the nick of time destroyed the Stalinist stagnant, monolithic effigy."

As a result, Benes wrote, "the moral subconsciousness of everyone fully grasped all that in the Soviet Union and in the people's democracies had been rather academically described as violations of Socialist democracy and legality."

Benes said that the 20th Congress revelations were both beneficial and shocking, adding: "They have enabled people to see that it is not enough for the socialist system to surpass capitalism in economic and social organization and peace policy as it has already done, but that it must also surpass capitalism by its moral values, by its active humanitarian-

ism."

Concerning Hungary, Benes wrote:

"However strong, cunning and well prepared the foreign reactionary intervention may have been, it would hardly have brought Hungary so rapidly to the verge of disaster if it had not found good grounds and a favorable objective condition."

Benes asked whether "we, too, do not bear some responsibility" in the Hungarian events, "especially when the profoundly shocking truth of the Rajk trial came to light?"

The reply in Rude Pravo said Benes' article was "confusing, one-sidedly embittered with regard to Hungary and generally strange." It called him a "confused intellectual" who blinded himself to those forces that serve counter-revolution.

"Benes is obviously in doubt," the CP paper wrote, "but ordinary people certainly have not forgotten the fact that the Socialist system surpasses capitalism not only economically but also morally. That is borne out by everyday events and especially by the recent Anglo-French intervention in Egypt."