

CN 26' '''

X/4 C/S -- MOSCOW SAYS ARMED INTERVENTION WAS REQUESTED

(RELEADS CN 20)

MOSCOW, (UPI)--THE SOVIET UNION SAID TODAY "PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS" OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD ASKED THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE, "INCLUDING ASSISTANCE WITH ARMED FORCES."

THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CARRIED BY THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS AT 7:20 A.M (0420 GMT).

MOSCOW RADIO'S 7 A.M NEWSCAST HAD INDICATED NOTHING UNUSUAL. THERE WAS NO VISIBLE EXCITEMENT IN MOSCOW'S STREETS OR AMONG ITS POPULATION BEFORE THE TASS "ASSISTANCE" ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE TASS COMMUNIQUE SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ASKED FOR AID INCLUDING "ASSISTANCE WITH ARMED FORCES" TO MEET "THE THREAT WHICH HAD ARISEN TO THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM...FROM COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES WHICH HAVE ENTERED INTO COLLUSION WITH FOREIGN FORCES HOSTILE TO SOCIALISM."

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID "THE FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA" AFTER THE BRATISLAVA MEETING "AFFECTS THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST STATES, THE INTERESTS OF THE SECURITY OF THE STATES OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY.

"THE THREAT TO THE SOCIALIST SYSTEM IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA CONSTITUTES AT THE SAME TIME A THREAT TO THE MAINSTAYS OF EUROPEAN PEACE."

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID TASS WAS "AUTHORIZED TO STATE" CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNISTS HAD ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE.

(MORE) REN/A 0613/68 AUG 21