

CN 60

C/S - 1ST ADD - SVOBODA BEGINS (CN - 58) X X X NATION

(RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA/VIENNA) - CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION'S PRAGUE STUDIO CARRIED A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT SVOBODA AT 0810 MT.

BY A TELEPHONE FEED BUT WITHOUT A PICTURE SVOBODA ADDRESSED THE NATION AND SAID THAT A VERY COMPLEX SITUATION HAS COME ABOUT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA DURING THE PAST FEW HOURS.

"I AM UNABLE TO TELL YOU - AT THIS MOMENT - ANYTHING WHICH COULD LEAD TO CLARIFICATION", SVOBODA SAID.

IN HIS SHORT ADDRESS, SVOBODA APPEALED TO THE NATION TO KEEP CALM AND TO PREVENT ALL IRRATIONAL ACTIONS.

"AWAIT FURTHER STEPS BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANS OF THE REPUBLIC", SVOBODA SAID.

BEFORE SVOBODA'S ADDRESS THE TV ANNOUNCER SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION IS WITHOUT TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION BUT IT WILL TRY TO BROADCAST AT 0900 FILM MATERIAL FROM BRNO "AS FAR AS IT HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM THE CAMERAMEN."

(CMD) SVOBODA ALSO SAID: "AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC I AM APPROACHING YOU WITH FULL RESPONSIBILITY WHICH I HAVE TAKEN OVER WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS FUNCTION AND I REQUEST YOU URGENTLY TO PRESERVE FULL PRUDENCE AND COMPLETE CALM."

KK/REN/HE 17PT/ AUG 21 0842/68

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