

CS - 1145 INTRO - CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MUNICH, AUG 21 (CNR) ... CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA TODAY APPEALED FOR COMPLETE CALM, DIGNITY AND DISCIPLINE AS WARSAW PACT TROOPS OCCUPIED HIS COUNTRY.

SPEAKING TO THE NATION OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION, SVOBODA SAID THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE SHOULD WAIT FOR "FURTHER STEPS" BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL ORGANS OF THE REPUBLIC.

THE PRESIDENT SPOKE AS SOVIET ARMORED UNITS PICTURED ON CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION POSITIONED THEMSELVES AT KEY POINTS IN PRAGUE. THE BROADCAST WAS MADE SIX HOURS AFTER TROOPS FROM THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, BULGARIA, HUNGARY AND EAST GERMANY CROSSED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AN OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED THAT "PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS "IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD ASKED FOR ARMED ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF A THREAT OF COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY FORCES. RADIO PRAGUE DENIED THIS CLAIM BY THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY PRESIDUM CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS.

RADIO PRAGUE BROADCASTS WERE INTERRUPTED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE MORNING. PRAGUE TELEVISION SHOWED PICTURES OF SOVIET ARMOR AND TROOPS GUARDING KEY POINTS.

THE DRAMATIC RADIO PRAGUE BROADCAST AT 0200 MT THAT TROOPS HAD ENTERED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TRIGGERED AN IMMEDIATE SHOCK WAVE OF REACTION AROUND THE WORLD.

RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA, THE TWO COMMUNIST BLOC COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED THE REFORMS BEING CARRIED OUT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TODAY CONVENED MEETINGS OF TOP LEADERS TO REVIEW THE SITUATION.

IN THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT JOHNSON CALLED A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, THE HIGHEST U.S. POLICY-MAKING BODY, TO DISCUSS THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION.

(MORE) DH/A *mt* 1142/68 AUG 21

