

CN 287

X/13 C/S -- CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION OFF THE AIR

VIENNA, AUG 21 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA) -- AT 1728 TODAY THE CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION AUXILIARY STUDIO IN GOTTWALDOV ANNOUNCED THAT ITS BROADCASTS HAD COME TO AN END. THE ANNOUNCER, SPEAKING FROM WHAT HE CALLED ALREADY THE SECOND HIDE-OUT IN GOTTWALDOV SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION MUST END ITS BROADCASTS AFTER HAVING BEEN TOLD THAT A CONTINUATION OF TRANSMISSIONS WOULD LEAD TO DIRE CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY FOR THE ANNOUNCER BUT TO ALL HIS COLLABORATORS AND THE PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING.

HE ENDED HIS BROADCAST BY THANKING "HIS COLLEAGUES FROM THE AUSTRIAN TELEVISION FOR EVERYTHING THEY HAVE DONE AND WITH HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL PEOPLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE SECOND AUXILIARY STUDIO IN GOTTWALDOV WAS WITHOUT TELEPHONE AND WITHOUT PROPER COMMUNICATION LINKS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, ITS ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION BEING A SMALL TRANSISTOR WIRELESS AND PERHAPS MOTORBYKE MESSENGERS.

IN HIS LAST NEWSCAST, THE GOTTWALDOV STUDIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE PREMISES OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK WRITERS UNION IN PRAGUE HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY SOVIET TROOPS.

REPORTING ABOUT THE SITUATION IN BRNO, THE GOTTWALDOV ANNOUNCER SAID THAT SOVIET OFFICERS HAD BEEN PRESENT AT A MEETING OF THE BRNO REGIONAL PARTY COMMITTEE WHERE THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE OCCUPANT FORCES.

(MORE) JON/U RT 1835/68

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