

CN 314

X/13 C/S -- DEMONSTRATION AT SOVIET MISSION IN NEW YORK

P3, NEW YORK, AUGUST 21 (RFE SPECIAL/ ZVADIUK)-- JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS AFTER THE FIRST NEWS OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS BROADCAST OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION TUESDAY EVENING DEMONSTRATORS SHOWED UP AT THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS HERE CHANTING "RUSSIA GO HOME LEAVE THE CZECHS ALONE."

BY TWO A.M. WEDNESDAY MORNING SOME 90 PEOPLE WERE ON THE SCENE CARRYING MAKESHIFT SIGNS WHICH DEMANDED THAT "RUSSIA GET OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," AND "RUSSIAN TYRANTS ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN NAZIS."

MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE YOUNG STUDENTS OR MEMBERS OF THE MANY LEFT-LEANING ORGANIZATIONS WHO NORMALLY DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO PROTESTING AMERICA'S INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM.

ONE DEMONSTRATOR, STEVEN ROSENBERG OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER, NY., TOLD RADIO FREE EUROPE THAT HE WAS "NOT SURPRISED" AT THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, ADDING "I EXPECTED IT." HE CARRIED A SIGN WHICH SAID: "TO HELL WITH SUPER POWERS."

THE FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS IN THE SITUATION WAS EXPRESSED BY TAXI DRIVER VICTOR CORNELL, WHO CAME TO THE UNITED STATES FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA SOME 22 YEARS AGO. STANDING ALONE BY HIS CAB ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MAIN GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS, HE HELD UP A SIGN WHICH SAID "HELP \*\*\*\*\*CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

CORNELL, WHO STOOD HIS SILENT VIGIL NEAR THE SOVIET MISSION SINCE FOUR O'CLOCK WEDNESDAY MORNING, STARTED TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO A RADIO NEWSMAN BUT BROKE DOWN IN TEARS AND COULD NOT CONTINUE.

BY MIDMORNING, THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT SET UP BARRICADES AROUND THE SOVIET MISSION BUILDING, KEEPING DEMONSTRATORS AT LEAST ONE BLOCK AWAY. THE POLICE WERE IN EVIDENCE ALL THROUGH THE AREA AS REPORTS OF LARGER DEMONSTRATIONS TO COME WERE BEING RUMORED.

JON/U

1954/68 6