

CS - 2030 INTRO: WITHDRAWAL DEMAND

MUNICH, AUGUST 24 (CNR)-TE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEMANDED THE RELEASE FROM INTERNMENT OF ITS TOP LEADERS, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT ISSUED TONIGHT BY THE CETEKA NEWS AGENCY.

ANOTHER GOVERNMENT STATEMENT, BROADCAST ON THE FREQUENCY OF RADIO CESKE BUDOVICE, DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA.

THE STATEMENTS CLIMAXED A DAY OF POLITICAL TURMOIL WHICH INCLUDED

- DEMANDS BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN NATIONAL FRONT AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE FOREIGN TROOPS WITHDRAW.

- A STATEMENT BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN ARMY LEADERSHIP, SIGNED BY DEFENSE MINISTER MARTIN DZUB, DECLARING THAT THE ARMY WILL CONTINUE TO FULFILL ORDERS ISSUED BY ITS COMMANDER IN CHIEF, PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA.

- CONDEMNATION OF THE INVASION BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN PEOPLES MILITIA.

- WIDESPREAD MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT FROM TRADE UNIONS CO-OPERATIVES AND FACTORIES.

HOWEVER THERE WAS NO RPT NO OFFICIAL WORD TONIGHT OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN LIBERAL LEADERS, EXCEPT FOR THE DEMAND FOR THEIR RELEASE.

THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD MET AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THIS MORNING. SOVIET TANKS LATER SURROUNDED THE BUILDING.

(MORE) JON/E 2025/68

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