

CN 20

U.S. - FIVE CONVICTS KILLED AS HOSTAGES FREED

COLUMBUS, OHIO, AUG 22 (CNR/UPI/REUTER) - SIX OHIO STATE PENITENTIARY PRISONERS WERE KILLED YESTERDAY AS NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND POLICE FREED NINE GUARDS THEY HAD HELD HOSTAGE FOR A DAY AND A HALF.

WARDEN H.J. KOLOSKI SAID THEY WERE KILLED AS THE TROOPS BLASTED A HOLE IN A WALL WITH EXPLOSIVE CHARGES AND THEN WENT IN SHOOTING. HE SAID A SIXTH CONVICT HAD HIS THROAT CUT BY FELLOW-PRISONERS AND WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

LEADERS OF THE 300 REBELLING INMATES HAD THREATENED TO KILL THEIR GUARDS UNLESS THEIR DEMANDS FOR PRISON REFORMS WERE MET. BUT ALL WERE RESCUED UNHURT EXCEPT ONE WITH A CUT OVER HIS EYE.

OHIO GOVERNOR JAMES A. RHODES ORDERED THE GUARDSMEN IN AND PRISON SAFETY DIRECTOR FREDERICK SIMON SAID HIS MEN HAD ORDERS TO SHOOT "IF THE PRISONERS DIDN'T GET INTO A CELL."

THE CONVICTS, JEERING AND CURSING, HAD WATCHED DEMOLLITION EXPERTS SET UP THE CHARGES -- 75 POUNDS (33 KGS) AGAINST A WALL AND THE HOSTAGES WHEN THE FIRST BLAST WENT OFF.

BUT THE HEAVILY ARMED TROOPS SWEEPED THROUGH HOLES IN THE WALL AND ROOF TO OVERWHELM THE PRISONERS AND RESCUE THE HOSTAGES WITHIN 20 MINUTES OF THE FIRST EXPLOSIVE CHARGE. ABOUT 70 SHOTGUN BLASTS AND FIVE BURSTS OF MACHINE GUN FIRE WERE LOOSED DURING THE ATTACK.

FOS/LA 0100/68 AUG 22