

CN 70

X/13/CURT-SOVIET FLAGS BURNED BY DEMONSTRATORS NEAR U.N. (WITH CN 62)

P18, NEW YORK, AUGUST 22 (RFE SPECIAL/ZWADIUK)--WHILE THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL MET TO CONSIDER THE CZECHOSLOVAK QUESTION, OUTSIDE, AND WELL OUT OF THE VIEW OF THE ARRIVING AND DEPARTING DELEGATES, SOME 250 DEMONSTRATORS BURNED RUSSIAN FLAGS AND DEMANDED THAT SOVIET TROOPS LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE DEMONSTRATORS CARRIED A HUGE PORTRAIT OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK AND MANY SIGNS THAT APPEALED TO "THE CIVILIZED WORLD" FOR HELP. MOST OF THE SIGNS WERE IN ENGLISH BUT A FEW WERE ALSO IN CZECH AND RUSSIAN.

SEVERAL PEOPLE IN THE GROUP WORE BLUE HOODS DRAPED OVER THEIR HEADS AND A SIGN EXPLAINED THAT THE "RETURN OF TERRORISM TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA COMPELS US TO HIDE OUR FACES TO PROTECT OUR RELATIVES."

THERE WERE OTHER NUMEROUS SIGNS WHICH SAID: "DEATH TO SOVIET IMPERIALISM," "NO SECOND MUNICH," "GOD HELP THE CZECHS, U.N. WANT," AND ONE IN RUSSIAN CALLED FOR "FREEDOM FOR THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATION, DEATH TO THE OCCUPIERS."

A YOUNG GIRL AND A MAN DRAGGED TWO RUSSIAN FLAGS BEHIND THEIR BACKS AS THEY CONTINUED TO WALK IN THE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE POLICE. THE TWO FLAGS WERE LATER BURNED IN FULL VIEW OF SEVERAL TELEVISION AND MOVIE NEWREEL CAMERAS. THE SMELL OF BURNING RAGS HUNG IN THE AIR FOR A TIME AND THEN DRIFTED SLOWLY TOWARD THE U.N. HEADQUARTERS AND THE EAST RIVER BEHIND IT.

THIS WAS THE THIRD DEMONSTRATION SINCE THE WORLD LEARNED OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS. THE FIRST WAS IN THE VERY SMALL HOURS OF WEDNESDAY WHEN NEARLY 90 PERSONS SHOWED UP AT THE SOVIET MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHANTING "RUSSIA GO HOME LEAVE THE CZECHS ALONE."

THEN AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE AT THE SOVIET MISSION HEADQUARTERS. IT WAS SPONSORED BY AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS LIKE "YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM" AND THE "WAR RESISTORS LEAGUE."

THE LARGEST DEMONSTRATION OF THE DAY TOOK PLACE NEAR THE UNITED NATIONS.

JON/LA 0505/68

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