

C/S - PRAVDA: OCCUPATION A FRIENDLY ACT

MOSCOW, AUG. 22 REUTER - PRAVDA TODAY PRINTED SEVERAL ARTICLES FROM CORRESPONDENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DESCRIBING YESTERDAYS OCCUPATION AND PORTRAYING IT AS A FRIENDLY ACT TO A PEOPLE IN DISTRESS.

REPORTS OF HOSTILE REACTION FROM THE POPULATION, MENTIONED IN AN OFFICIAL TASS ANNOUNCEMENT LAST NIGHT AS IMPERIALIST-BACKED PROVOCATION, WERE PLAYED DOWN TODAY AND THERE WAS NO MENTION OF SHOTS BEING FIRED.

ONE REPORT, FROM A COLONEL S. BORZHENKO WHO SAID HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET FORCES WHICH LIBERATED CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM NAZI GERMANY IN 1945, DESCRIBED THE SCENE AFTER HIS UNIT CROSSED THE BORDER IN MIDNIGHT DARKNESS.

HE SAID MANY INHABITANTS TURNED OUT TO WELCOME THE SOVIET TROOPS AS THEY PASSED THROUGH TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

"ON SOME PEOPLES FACES WAS BEWILDERMENT," HE ADDED, ATTRIBUTING THIS TO THE FACT THAT THE PRAGUE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION HAD REMAINED "CRIMINALLY SILENT" ABOUT THE REASONS FOR THE OCCUPATION.

THEN "WITH THE RISING SUN BEFORE OUR EYES, ANCIENT PRAGUE WITH ITS CHARACTERISTIC SILHOUETTES APPEARED BEFORE US. THE SOVIET TROOPS ENTERED THE CITY IN AN ORGANISED WAY.

"THEY HAD COME AS TRUE FRIENDS AT THE CALL OF BROTHERS TO AVERT A THREAT TO THE SOCIALIST FOUNDATIONS..... OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

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