

(ATtribution REQUIRED)

C/S -- WESTERN PRESS CONTINUES MASSIVE COVERAGE OF CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS

MUNICH, AUG 22 (CNR) -- WESTERN NEWSPAPERS TODAY CONTINUE TO GIVE MASSIVE COVERAGE TO EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, WITH BANNER HEADLINES AND BIG PICTURES.

DETAILS FOLLOW:

LONDON, (RFE SPECIAL/HOOD)--THE BRITISH NATIONAL PRESS THIS MORNING DEVOTED THEIR ENTIRE FRONT PAGES AND MANY INSIDE PAGES TO THE WARSAW PACT OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

MOST BIG BANNERLINES DEALT WITH THE REPORTED ARREST OF DUBCEK AND OTHER LEADERS BY THE INVADERS. THE MASS CIRCULATION DAILY EXPRESS BANNERLINE "'RUSSIAN TROOPS GRAB DUBCEK'" WAS TYPICAL. THE ONLY VARIATIONS WERE THE TIMES WITH "'RUSSIANS TIGHTEN THEIR GRIP ON CZECHS'", THE DAILY TELEGRAPH "'PRAGUE TELLS RUSSIANS 'GO HOME''", AND THE GUARDIAN "'DEFIANCE STILL FROM BELEAGURED CZECHS.'"

THE TIMES GAVE THREE COLUMNS TO A DISPATCH OF TAD SZULC OF THE NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE, REPORTING FROM PRAGUE, UNDER THE HEADING "'STRUGGLE TO FORM PUPPET REGIME AS MORE TROOPS FLOOD IN'".

THE SUN PUBLISHED A FOUR COLUMN PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AUGUST 2 IN BRATISLAVA SHOWING A SMILING BREZHNEV CLASPING HANDS AND FLOWERS WITH PRESIDENT SVOBODA AND PARTY CHIEF DUBCEK. "'A PICTURE THE WORLD WILL NOT FORGET'", SAID THE SUN.

IN A SIMILAR VEIN, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH PUBLISHED A THREE COLUMN PICTURE OF RUSSIAN TANK CREWS AND CZECHOSLOVAK SOLDIERS FRATERNIZING DURING WARSAW PACT MANOEUVRES NEAR PRAGUE IN JUNE AND CAPTIONED IT "'BROTHERS IN ARMS--TWO MONTHS AGO.'"

ALL PAPERS REPORTED THE ANTI-RUSSIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN LONDON, NEAR THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY OUTSIDE THE RUSSIAN EXHIBITION IN THE EARLS COURT AREA, AND AT A CONCERT BY THE RUSSIAN STATE ORCHESTRA IN THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.

(GND/WALL) -- NEARLY ALL WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED HUGE HEADLINES WITH PICTURES OF SOVIET TANKS IN PRAGUE ON PAGE ONE.

BILD ZEITUNG, WITH A CIRCULATION OF ABOUT 4,500,000, DEVOTED ITS FIRST FIVE PAGES AND THE LAST PAGE OF ITS EIGHT-PAGE ISSUE TO THE CRISIS. ITS PAGE-ONE HEADLINE QUOTED A MESSAGE FROM A PRAGUE FIRM TO ITS FRANKFURT BRANCH: "IT CONCERNS EVERYTHING FOR US! BE WITH US!"

MUNICH'S LIBERAL SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG DEVOTED ITS FIRST EIGHT NEWS PAGES ENTIRELY TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISIS. AGENCY REPORTS ON PAGE ONE REPORTED THE SITUATION THERE WHILE A REPORT FROM ITS MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT SAID THE OCCUPATION HAD BEEN LONG PLANNED. COVERAGE ALSO EXTENDED THROUGH OTHER PAGES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NEWSPAPER.

THE CONSERVATIVE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG DEVOTED NEARLY ALL OF ITS FIRST EIGHT PAGES TO THE CRISIS AS WELL AS FURTHER COVERAGE ELSEWHERE.

THE LIBERAL FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU SPREAD THE STORY OVER THE FIRST QUARTER OF ITS ISSUE.

HAMBURG'S CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT PUT THE CRISIS ON ITS FIRST FIVE PAGES WITH REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO ITS OWN NEWS SERVICE FILLING PAGE ONE UNDER THE BANNER HEADLINE "PRAGUE UNDER RULE OF THE SOVIETS; HORROR, INDIGATION AND PROTESTS."

THE CONSERVATIVE MUENCHNER MERKUR DEVOTED 11 OF ITS FIRST 12 PAGES TO THE CRISIS. UNDER THE HUGE BANNER "SMOKE CLOUDS OVER THE SKY OF PRAGUE; THE TRAGEDY OF THE C.S.S.R. SHAKES THE WORLD," A DISPATCH FROM ITS PRAGUE CORRESPONDENT BEGAN: "THE TRAGEDY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

(MORE) MA/A 1208/68 NH