

CN 183

C/S - MORE TANKS IN PRAGUE (RELEADS CN 94) *****

PRAGUE, AUG 22 (REUTER)- MORE SOVIET TANKS TOOK UP POSITIONS IN PRAGUE TODAY TO SWELL LARGE NUMBERS ALREADY HERE.

THE CRACKLE OF RIFLE FIRE CONTINUED THROUGH THE NIGHT, WITH AN OCCASIONAL SOUND AS SOME HEAVIER WEAPON WENT

INTO ACTION.

CLANDESTINE RADIO STATIONS, PROCLAIMING THEMSELVES THE FREE VOICE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, THIS MORNING BEGAN RELAYING APPEALS FOR A GENERAL STRIKE IN THE HEAVY IRON FACTORY FOUNDRY AT VITKOVICE, MORAVIA.

TABLES APPEARED OUTSIDE PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN PRAGUE THIS MORNING AND THE PEOPLE QUEUED TO SIGN PETITIONS CALLING ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO RELEASE DUBCEK, KRIEGEL, SMRKOVSKY, SPACEK AND OTHER REFORMIST LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN SPIRITED AWAY TO SOME HIDEAWAY.

DJG/BMCG/H^{MR} 1300/68