

CN 258

X/4 C/S -- TASS SAYS SVESTKA FREED FROM ARREST

MUNICH, AUG 22 (CMD)-- THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS SAID TODAY SOVIET TROOPS HAVE FREED FROM ARREST THE EDITOR OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, OLDRICH SVESTKA.

TASS SAID HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY "HOSTILE ELEMENTS" WHO ARE TRYING, "AT ANY COST, TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE TASS DISPATCH SAID THESE "HOSTILE ELEMENTS" PRINTED A "SPECIAL ISSUE" OF RUDE PRAVO WHICH ATTACKED THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

THE DISPATCH WAS DISTRIBUTED SOON AFTER RADIO CESKE BUDEJOVICE SAID THAT JIRI FRANEK HAS BEEN APPOINTED EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF RUDE PRAVO.

THE BROADCAST ACCUSED FRANEK OF COLLABORATING WITH THE OCCUPATION FORCES.

NEITHER THE BROADCAST NOR TASS SAID WHAT SVESTKA IS DOING AT PRESENT.

(TASS IN ENGLISH, AUG 22; RADIO CESKE BUDEJOVICE/M; AUG 22; 1500)

REN/ 01201 1705/68 4 B