

CS - 2030 INTRO - PRAGUE SCENE

PRAGUE, AUG 22 (CNR/CMD/AGENCIES)- THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS WAS STILL MEETING IN PRAGUE TONIGHT AMID REPORTS THAT PREMIER OLDŘICH ČERNÍK HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE CAPITAL BY THE SOVIET OCCUPIERS AND THAT MARTIAL LAW MIGHT BE DECLARED.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE REPORTED TONIGHT THAT THE CONGRESS DELEGATES HAD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL INTERNED NATIONAL LEADERS AND THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES.

THE RESOLUTION DECLARED THAT THE TROOPS OF THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, HUNGARY, BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY HAD "FORCIBLY OCCUPIED OUR TERRITORY."

"WE FACE THE BITTER TRUTH THAT THE TROOPS OF THE COUNTRIES WE USED TO SEE AS FRIENDS ACT AS AN OCCUPYING FORCE," THE RESOLUTION DECLARED.

EARLIER, THE RADIO HAD REPORTED THAT MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND OF THE 1,600 DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS HAD MANAGED TO REACH THE CAPITAL, AND MORE WERE ON THE WAY.

A RADIO ČESKÉ BUDOVICE REPORT SAID THAT THE CONGRESS HAD ADOPTED A DECLARATION THREATENING A GENERAL STRIKE IF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS DID NOT TAKE PLACE WITHIN 24 HOURS, AND IF THE PARTY LEADER, MR. ALEXANDER DUBČEK, WAS NOT ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE NATION.

MR. DUBČEK'S WHEREABOUTS REMAIN UNCERTAIN. HE WAS LAST REPORTED BY RADIO PRAGUE YESTERDAY TO HAVE BEEN AMONG CENTRAL COMMITTEE PRESIDUM MEMBERS TAKEN AWAY FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING IN ARMoured CARS.

MEANWHILE, WESTERN REPORTS FROM PRAGUE SAID THAT POSTERS HAD APPEARED ALL OVER THE CITY URGING KEY OFFICIALS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO GO BACK TO WORK.