

(NOTEWORTHY)

A10 NEW YORK, AUGUST 22 (RFE SPECIAL/ SHELTON) -- THE EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE RECEIVED EXTREMELY PROMINENT PRESS PLAY IN THE MORNING AND EVENING PAPERS IN THE NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

WEDNESDAY'S (8/21) BOSTON HERALD TRAVELER, WHICH IS A MORNING PAPER, TOOK NOTE OF THE INITIAL SOVIET ACTION WITH A ONE-LINE, 8-COLUMN HEADLINE STATING: "ZECHOSLOVAKIA IS INVADED" AND HAS KICKER HEADLINES AND SUBHEADLINES ALLUDING TO CALLS FOR CALM BY CZECHOSLOVAK LEADER AND THE SUMMONING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR WEDNESDAY (8/21) TOOK NOTE OF CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS WITH A BANNER HEADLINE READING: "CZECHS FALL TO RUSSIANS" AND A LEAD STORY CAPPED WITH A SUBHEAD DENOTING THE REPORTS OF SOME DEATHS AS THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS MOVED IN. TWO OTHER FRONT PAGE STORIES CONCERNED THE EVENNTS, ONE DISCUSSING THE FACT THE UNITED STATES IS STAYING ON THE SIDELINES AND THE OTHER AN EYEWITNESS REPORT HEADLINED "GUNFIRE IN STREETS OF PRAGUE." ALSO INCLUDED IN THE COVERAGE WAS A LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "TRAGEDY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS ALSO DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGE OF WEDNESDAY'S (8/21) NEWARK EVENING NEWS WHICH HAD A TOTAL OF FIVE STORIES TELLING OF THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE SOVIET INCURSION. CAPPING THE FIRST PAGE WAS A 2-LINE, 8-COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE READING: "SOVIET ARMOR SMASHES CZECH LIBERAL REGIME", THE PUBLICATION ALSO INCLUDED A LEAD EDITORIAL HEADLINED: "THE SOVIET THRUST."

WEDNESDAY MORNING'S (8/21) TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL USED A BANNER HEADLINE READING: "RUSSIANS, WARSAW PACT ALLIES CROSS CZECHOSLOVAKIA BORDER" AND A 3-COLUMN MAP SHOWING: THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATION AND ITS BORDER COUNTRIES. THE FIRST TWO PAGES WERE DEVOTED TO RELATED EVENTS AND INCLUDED SUCH ITEMS AS CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP'S STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION.

THURSDAY'S (8/22) NEW YORK MORNING PAPERS ALL HAD CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS THEIR LEAD STORIES.

THE NEW YORK TIMES CONTAINED 17 STORIES OF THE TROOP MOVEMENTS AND THE RESULTING EVENTS. IT WAS SET-OFF BY A 3-LINE, 8-COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE READING: "RUSSIANS SEIZE DUBCEK AND 5 COLLEAGUES; MACHINE-GUN FIRE IS EXCHANGED IN PRAGUE; CZECHS BALKING FORMATION OF NEW REGIME." BELOW THE HEADLINE, ON THE TWO LEAD COLUMNS WAS A BOLDFACE TYPE ACCOUNT OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRISIS WHICH WAS USED AS A LEAD-IN TO THE LEAD 2-COLUMN STORY CONCERNING EVENTS IN PRAGUE. OF TEN FRONT-PAGE STORIES, EIGHT CONCERNED CZECHOSLOVAK EVENTS AND INCLUDED SUCH HEADLINES AS: "RUMANIA WARNS SOVIET; TITO DECRIES THE INVASION." THE TIMES ALSO INCLUDED A LEAD EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "RUSSIANS, GO HOME!"

THE DAILY NEWS DEVOTED ITS FRONT PICTURE PAGE TO EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CAPPED BY A 2-LINE, 5-COLUMN BANNER HEADLINE READING "RUSSIAN GUNS DEFY THE WORLD". ALSO INCLUDED IS A PICTURE, INCLUDING THE OUTLINE OF: "UNOPPOSED RUSSIAN TANK CLATTERS BY STATUE OF WENCELAS, FIRST KING OF CZECHS AND SYMBOL OF FREEDOM, AS INVASION OF PRAGUE IS COMPLETED." AT THE BOTTON OF THE FIRST PAGE IS A BOLDFACE TEASER SAYING: "ELEVEN PAGES OF CRISIS COVERAGE, INCLUDING CENTERFOLD PICTURE LAYOUT."

(MORE)

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