

C/S - BELGRADE DEMONSTRATION

BELGRADE, AUG 22, REUTER -- A CROWD OF MORE THAN 200,000 PEOPLE STAGED A RALLY IN BELGRADES CITY CENTRE TODAY IN SUPPORT OF CZECHOSLOVAK LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

SEVERAL HUNDRED CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS, CARRYING CZECHOSLOVAK AND YUGOSLAV FLAGS AND POSTERS CONDEMNING THE SOVIET INVASION, MINGLED WITH THOSE AT THE RALLY.

CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK, WHO IS REPORTED TO BE ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK TO ADDRESS THE UNITED NATIONS, ADDRESSED A CROWD OF A FEW THOUSAND YUGOSLAVS AND CZECHOSLOVAKS IN FRONT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY AFTER THE RALLY.

HE THANKED BELGRADE CITIZENS FOR THEIR STAND.

"THIS IS TRUE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM, AND FOR US IT REPRESENTS A REAL AND GREAT HOPE," HE TOLD THE CHEERING CROWD.

THE CROWD SHOUTED: "TITO-DUBCEK" AND "TANKS - OUT".

CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR LADISLAV SIMOVIC KISSED THE CZECHOSLOVAK FLAG AMID PROLONGED CHEERS BY THE CROWD BELOW WHICH BLOCKED BELGRADES BROADEST STREET - BOULEVARD OF THE REVOLUTION.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE TOWN, THE EMBASSIES OF THE SOVIET UNION, EAST GERMANY, BULGARIA AND HUNGARY WERE STRONGLY GUARDED BY POLICE AND EVERYTHING WAS REPORTED QUIET.

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