

CN 345

X/S USSR JAMS RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE BROADCAST FROM WEST

WASHINGTON, AUG. 22 (USIS) -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, THE SOVIET UNION IS JAMMING RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA) AND OTHER WESTERN STATIONS.

A VOA SPOKESMAN SAID THE JAMMING BEGAN WEDNESDAY, ABOUT TWO HOURS AFTER IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN WASHINGTON THAT TROOPS OF THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA HAD INVADDED CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

INTERFERENCE WITH THE RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS OF THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND GERMANY'S DEUTSCHE WELLE ALSO WAS REPORTED.

DESPITE THE JAMMING, THE VOA SPOKESMAN SAID, THE VOICE OF AMERICA EXPANDED ITS RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH-LNAGUAGE BROADCASTS THURSDAY TO 24 HOURS A DAY.

THE VOA'S RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS NORMALLY ARE AIRED EIGHT HOURS DAILY AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS 14 HOURS DAILY, THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

VOA IS THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY. ITS WEEKLY AUDIENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION IS ESTIMATED AT 13 MILLION PERSONS.

"THE SOVIET UNION AT 3 A.M. WEDNESDAY (0800 MT) BEGAN CONTINUOUS JAMMING OF VOA'S RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS," THE SPOKESMAN SAID. BULGARIA ALSO IS JAMMING VOA AS WELL AS BBC PROGRAMS BROADCAST IN BULGARIAN, HE SAID.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE SOVIET UNION HAD JAMMED VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCASTS SINCE JUNE 19, 1963.

THE VOA SPOKESMAN SAID THE U.S. RADIO SERVICE BROADCAST INFORMATION WEDNESDAY ABOUT THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM ITS OWN CORRESPONDENTS AND THE AMERICAN PRESS. IT ALSO AIRED EDITORIALS AND REACTIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S STATEMENT ON THE INTERVENTION.

"ALSO, WE WILL CONTINUE TO BROADCAST LIVE, BOTH IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN, ALL CONTINUING (U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL SESSIONS ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK CRISI," THE VOA SPOKESMAN STATED.

POLAND STOPPED JAMMING VOA BROADCASTS IN 1956, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. JAMMING OF VOA PROGRAMS BEAMED INTO RUMANIA STOPPED IN 1963, AND IN HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1964.

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