

CN 386

CS - GANDHI WON'T GO BEYOND WEDNESDAY'S STATEMENT

NEW DELHI, AUG 22, REUTER -- INDIAN OPPOSITION PARTIES -- EXCEPT FOR MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNISTS - JOINED IN PARLIAMENT TODAY IN CONDEMNING THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT THE GOVERNMENT BLOCKED THEIR MOTION.

PRIME MINISTER MRS. INDIRA GANDHI REFUSED TO GO BEYOND HER EARLIER STATEMENT THAT SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT TROOPS SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT WISH TO SAY ANYTHING THAT MIGHT PREVENT INDIA PLAYING A USEFUL ROLE IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

A FURTHER 12 SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WERE DETAINED FOR FIVE HOURS AFTER THEY SHOUTED SLOGANS AGAINST THE INVASION

OUTSIDE THE SOVIET EMBASSY. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MPS ARRESTED TO 15.

FOS/HI/RT 2305/68

15