

CN 388

X/4 C/S - TASS SAYS "HOSTILE ELEMENTS" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

(Rubor)
cn 360

MOSCOW, AUGUST 22 (CMD)-- THE SOVIET NEWSAGENCY TASS SAID TONIGHT THAT "HOSTILE ELEMENTS" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE "TRYING AT ANY COST TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION, COMMITTING GRAVE CRIMES."

THE TASS REPORT SAID:

"ACCORDING TO REPORTS COMING IN FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY REMAINS NORMAL ON THE WHOLE." IT CLAIMED THAT INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS WERE WORKING AS USUAL, AND THE POPULATION "RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF PRESIDENT SVOBODA," REMAINED CALM.

HOWEVER, IT SAID, "HOSTILE ELEMENTS ARE TRYING AT ANY COST TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION, COMMITTING GRAVE CRIMES.

"THEY ARRESTED SVESTKA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE NEWSPAPER RUDE PRAVO. AND PRINTED A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THIS NEWSPAPER, ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY, ATTACKING THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

"COMRADE SVESTKA WAS RELEASED FROM UNDER ARREST BY SOVIET TROOPS.

"COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY LEAFLETS ARE BEING PRINTED; INCENDIARY POSTERS CONTAINING SLANDEROUS ATTACKS ON PROMINENT CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS, AS WELL AS ON ALLIED TROOPS, HAVE BEEN PASTED UP IN SOME PARTS OF PRAGUE.

"CARS WITH LOUDSPEAKERS TRANSMITTING CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCASTS HAVE APPEARED IN THE STREETS."

(MORE) RE/ FOS/ 0 2310/68
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