

CN 94

X/13 C/S - SPECIAL TRAIN FROM PRAGUE WITH STRANDED TOURISTS

(RELEADS CN 67)

VIENNA, AUG 23 (RFE SPECIAL/KOCH) --SOME 426 PERSONS REPRESENTING 23 NATIONALITIES ARRIVED IN VIENNA EARLY THIS MORNING FROM PRAGUE IN A SPECIAL TRAIN ORGANIZED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND U.S. OFFICIALS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK CAPITAL, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IN VIENNA SAID.

THE PASSENGERS, ALMOST ALL STRANDED TOURISTS CHAPERONED BY A U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PRAGUE, ARRIVED AT THE FRANZ JOSEF RAILROAD STATION AT 0500 THIS MORNING AFTER A NINE AND A HALF HOUR LONG OTHERWISE UNEVENTFUL TRAIN RIDE.

THE LARGEST SINGLE GROUP OF PASSENGERS WAS AN AMERICAN TEEN-AGE GROUP OF 135 WHO HAD BEEN TOURING EUROPE ON A STUDENT LANGUAGE TOUR.

AMERICANS, SOME 245 OF THEM, MADE UP THE LARGEST SINGLE CONTINGENT.

THE PASSENGERS ALSO INCLUDED 37 CZECHOSLOVAKS, SAID BY THE SPOKESMAN TO HAVE BEEN EQUIPPED WITH LEGAL EXIT AND ENTRY VISAS FOR AUSTRIA. 33 CANADIANS, 12 DANES, 12 AUSTRIANS, 11 ITALIANS, TEN WEST GERMANS AND OTHERS FROM SOUTH AMERICA, THE MIDEAST AND ASIA WERE AMONG THE TRAVELLERS, THE U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID.

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