

## X/13 C/S - AUSTRO-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER TRAFFIC SLOWING DOWN

KLEIN HAUGSDORF, AUGUST 23 (RFE SPECIAL WILLIAMS/TORMAY) - TRAFFIC ACROSS THE AUSTRO CZECH BORDER TODAY APPEARS TO BE GRADUALLY COMING TO A STANDSTILL.

AUSTRIAN BORDER OFFICIALS AT KLEIN HAUGSDORF SAID THIS MORNING THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THEIR CZECH COUNTERPARTS THAT NO NON-CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE OCCUPANTS OF A WEST GERMAN CAR WHICH WAS TURNED BACK. SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAKS REFUSED THEM ENTRY WITHOUT GIVING A SPECIFIC REASON.

YESTERDAY, ONLY JOURNALISTS WERE BEING TURNED BACK BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER OFFICIALS.

TODAY, NOBODY HAS CROSSED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AT KLEIN HAUGSDORF UP TO 10:30 EXCEPT A SOLITARY POLISH MOTORCYCLIST AND, LATER, A CZECHOSLOVAK ON A MOTOR SCOOTER.

AUSTRIAN BORDER OFFICIALS SAY THAT ON FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK, BEFORE THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA THAT SOME 2,000 PEOPLE CROSSED THE FRONTIER AT KLEIN HAUGSDORF.

THE POLISH MOTORCYCLIST EVIDENTLY KNEW NOTHING OF THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNTIL HE WAS TOLD BY AN AUSTRIAN BYSTANDER IN CZECHOSLOVAK. MANY AUSTRIANS IN THIS AREA SPEAK CZECH AND SLOVAK AS WELL AS GERMAN.

THE POLE WAS AT FIRST INCREDULOUS, BUT THEN SAID THE RUSSIANS MIGHT HAVE MARCHED IN, BUT HE REFUSED TO BELIEVE POLISH TROOPS WOULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING.

THE AUSTRIAN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA HIMSELF AND HAD SPOKE TO POLISH SOLDIERS. THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE ON MANOEUVERS, HE SAID.

TODAY, ONLY ONE AUSTRIAN ONE WEST GERMAN, ONE SWEDISH AND TWO FRENCH CARS CROSSED INTO AUSTRIA AT KLEIN HAUGSDORF UP TO 10:30. AN AUSTRIAN FAMILY CAME OUT ON FOOT.

THE DRIVER OF THE WEST GERMAN CAR SAID HE HAD BEEN IN ZNOJMO ON A TWO DAY VISA. THERE WERE SOVIET TANKS IN ZNOJMO YESTERDAY, BUT NONE WERE TO BE SEEN TODAY EITHER IN ZNOJMO OR ON THE ROAD, THOUGH SOME COULD BE SEEN IN FIELDS AND WOODS. HE SAID THERE WERE POSTERS AND BANNERS EVERYWHERE IN ZNOJMO BUT HE COULD NOT READ THEM.

IN ZNOJMO YESTERDAY, HE SAID, CZECHOSLOVAKS GATHERED AROUND SOVIET TANKS AND WAVED THEIR FISTS AT THE CREW. BUT THE RUSSIANS STAYED IN THEIR TANKS AND MADE NO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION.

HE SAID LIFE IN ZNOJMO SEEMS TO BE PROCEEDING NORMALLY, WITH PEOPLE CONTINUING THEIR WORK AND FARMERS TILLING THEIR FIELDS AS USUAL IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTRY SIDE. PUBLIC SERVICES WERE FUNCTIONING, BUT THERE WAS A TWO HOUR STRIKE IN ZNOJMO YESTERDAY.

THE WEST GERMAN SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO DRIVE A LOCAL CZECHOSLOVAK TO PRAGUE BECAUSE TRAINS AND BUSES WERE NOT RUNNING. HE HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED TO TAKE OUT LETTERS, HE SAID, BECAUSE THE CZECHOSLOVAK POST WAS NOT ACCEPTING LETTERS WITH A FOREIGN DESTINATION.

BMCG/DJG/H *hw*

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