

CN 181

X/4 C/S - 1ST ADD - SVOBODA ARRIVES IN MOSCOW (CN 169) XXX HERE

TASS SAID SVOBODA WAS MET AT VNUKOV AIRPORT BY SOVIET PARTY CHIEF LEONID BREZHNEV, PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNÝ, PREMIER ALEXEI KOSYGIN "AND OTHER LEADERS.

"A GUARD OF HONOR WAS LINED UP ON THE AIRFIELD AND AN ARTILLERY SALVO WAS FIRED," TASS ADDED. "THE PRESIDENT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS WELCOMED BY NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIVES OF MOSCOW'S WORKING PEOPLE AND PUBLIC AT LARGE." (TASS IN ENGLISH, AUG 23)

(REUTER) PARTY CHIEF LEONID BREZHNEV, PREMIER ALEXEI KOSYGIN AND PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNÝ WERE AT VNUKOV AIRPORT, MAKING THEIR FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE SOVIET AND WARSAW TROOPS ENTERED CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE LANDED MORE THAN TWO HOURS AFTER IT WAS EXPECTED.

AN OFFICIAL WELCOME, INCLUDING SOVIET TROOPS IN DRESS UNIFORM, WELCOMING CROWDS AND THE STATE FLAGS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE SOVIET UNION, WAS PREPARED WELL IN ADVANCE.

(MORE) DJG/HE *MA* AUG 23 1442/68