

C/S - 1ST ADD INTRO - CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION (CN 203) XXX PATRIOTS

RADIO FREE PRAGUE REPORTED IN ANOTHER BROADCAST THAT A ONE-HOUR STRIKE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE PROTESTING AGAINST THE OCCUPATION WAS HELD TODAY. THE RADIO SAID "THE OCCUPIERS CANNOT SAY THAT THEY WILL FIND COLLABORATORS AMONG US." IT SAID THE STRIKE "UNEQUIVOCALLY EXPRESSED OUR VIEW."

ALL OVER SLOVAKIA BLACK FLAGS WERE FLYING AND CZECHOSLOVAK FLAGS WERE DOWN AT HALF MAST, IT ADDED.

PRAGUE LOOKED LIKE A GHOST TOWN. IN THE CENTRE OF THE CITY WHERE THOUSANDS STOOD IN DOORWAYS CHANTING "DUBCEK, DUBCEK," A SOVIET ARMoured CAR RACED ALONG A STREET FIRING INTO THE AIR.

THE STRIKE WAS CALLED BY THE 14TH EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONGRESS WHICH MET YESTERDAY. THE CONGRESS ALSO ELECTED A NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHICH IN TURN CHOSE A 28-MAN PRESIDIUM. CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY LEADER, SOVIET-HELD ALEXANDER DUBCEK, WAS RETAINED AS PARTY FIRST SECRETARY.

VJENKA SILHAN WAS CHOSEN AS CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AND ENTRUSTED WITH RUNNING THE PRESIDIUM DURING DUBCEK'S ABSENCE.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE OF OCCUPATION TROOPS FROM THE COUNTRY AND HAS FULLY SUPPORTED THE NEWLY-ELECTED CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

THE SOVIET UNION, POLAND, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA TODAY ISSUED A JOINT APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CALLED FOR "UNITY."

THE APPEAL, BROADCAST BY RADIO MOSCOW AND REPORTED BY TASS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SERVICE, PROMISED THAT WARSAW PACT TROOPS WOULD LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA "WHEN THE THREAT TO FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS ELIMINATED."

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