

CN 283

C/S - CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS LEAVE SOVIET CRUISE SHIP

STOCKHOLM, AUG 23, REUTER - MORE THAN 30 CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS LEFT A RUSSIAN CRUISING SHIP WHICH BERTHED HERE TODAY AND ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN SWEDEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THE SHIP, THE MARIA ULANOVA, WAS ON A ROUND TRIP FROM LENINGRAD AND SAILS BACK TONIGHT. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE TAKEN TO THEIR EMBASSY HERE WHEN THEY LEFT THE SHIP AND GIVEN NEWS OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR COUNTRY.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP SAID: "WE WILL NOT GO BACK ON BOARD. THE SWEDISH RED CROSS IS GIVING US ACCOMMODATION AND WE HAVE BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO STAY HERE AT LEAST UNTIL MONDAY."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF THEY WOULD RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

"IT IS A TERRIBLE DECISION TO MAKE - WE HAVE OUR FAMILIES THERE SO I THINK MOST OF US WILL RETURN SOONER OR LATER," HE ADDED.

MA/E 2020/68

19

cut