

CN 284

X/13 CS - CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, AUG 23 (RFE SPECIAL/KOSTRBA)-- SINCE THE WARSAW PACT INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, SOME 30 CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONALS HAVE FILED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM WITH AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES, THE AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY ANNOUNCED TODAY.

IN ADDITION SIX MEMBERS OF A PRAGUE THEATER DECIDED NOT TO RETURN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN AUSTRIA.

THE OVERALL NUMBER OF CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS IN AUSTRIA WHO ARE HESITATING WHETHER TO RETURN OR NOT, CANNOT AT THE MOMENT BE ASSESSED, AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED.

A SPECIAL AUSTRIAN RESCUE COMMITTEE FOR CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES AND TOURISTS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN VIENNA'S FIRST DISTRICT, AUERSPERGSTRASSE NUMBER FOUR. THE VIENNA CHAIN OF RESTAURANTS "WOEK" EXTENDS FREE MEALS TO ALL THOSE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONALS WHO HAVE REGISTERED WITH THE COMMITTEE.

ON THE LEFT BANK OF THE DANUBE IN VIENNA, SOME 300 CZECHOSLOVAK MOTORISTS HAD ESTABLISHED A CAMP AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF EVENTS IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY. WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY VIENNA COMMUNAL AUTHORITIES.

VIENNA TOWN MAYOR BRUNO MAREK PAID A VISIT TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK CAMPERS ON FRIDAY MORNING AND PROMISED ADDITIONAL HELP FROM MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES. THERE ARE PLANS TO MOVE THE CZECHOSLOVAK COLONY TO THE VIENNA HOERNWALDL IN ORDER TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS.

THE AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL PLACE AT THE DISPOSAL OF CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS THREE OF ITS SUMMER HOUSES IN BRUNN AM GEBIRGE, HINTERBRUEHL AND NEUWALDEGG.

A NUMBER OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THE VIENNA REGION HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE READY TO RECEIVE CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS. THE VIENNA MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT COMPANY PLANS NOT TO CHARGE CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS ON TRAMWAYS AND BUSES.

AS AUSTRIAN BANKS STOPPED BUYING EAST EUROPEAN CURRENCIES AFTER THE WARSAW PACT INTERVENTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER DR. BRUNO KREISKY APPEALED TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A GENERAL EXCEPTION FROM THIS RULE FOR CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS STANDED IN AUSTRIA.

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