

CN 299

ATtribution RQUIRED

CS - THE RADIO STATIONS SLOWLY SILENCED

PRAGUE, AUG. 23, REUTER - SECRET RADIO STATIONS CLAIMING TO REPRESENT THE VOICE OF FREE CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE BEING SLOWLY SILENCED TONIGHT.

SOVIET SECURITY UNITS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WERE SEIZING TRANSMITTERS AND DETAINING BROADCASTING WORKERS.

STATION AFTER STATION WENT OFF THE AIR BETWEEN FIVE AND SIX OCLOCK BUT OCCASIONALLY A WEAK VOICE WOULD GAIN STRENGTH AGAIN - PRESUMABLY AFTER HAVING MOVED.

SOME OF THE CLANDESTINE TRANSMITTERS ARE IN THE BACK OF VANS, ALMOST CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE, AND USING AIRPORT EQUIPMENT.

AMONG THE MESSAGES POURING OUT OVER THE AIR WAVES WERE ORDERS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIAS NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE TELLING PEOPLE TO GO TO THEIR FACTORIES AND PLACES OF WORK TOMORROW AND ON SUNDAY AND TO "PREVENT THE COLLABORATORS FROM TAKING OVER."

A STATION CALLING ITSELF RUZYNE -- TRANSMITTING A WEAK AND MUFFLED VOICE -- WARNED THE PEOPLE OF COLLABORATORS. MINUTES LATER IT DIED AWAY.

THE STATION BROADCAST A LONG LIST OF CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO IT SAID WERE COLLABORATING WITH RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES AND WERE UNDER THE INSTRUCTION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SECURITY GROUP WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE OCCUPATION FORCES SINCE THE INVASION.

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE LAST BROADCASTER HEARD FROM THE RUZYNE STATION WARNED THE PEOPLE OF PRAGUE TO EXPECT A BIG ROUNDUP TONIGHT.

"NOW EVERYBODY MUST THINK FOR HIMSELF," SAID THE VOICE IN MOURNFUL TONES, AFTER WARNING LISTENERS THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE SILENCED ANY MINUTE.

(MORE) BG/ O/RT 2135/68/15