

CN 302

X/13 CURT -- TIGHT SECURITY FOR HAJEK VISIT (WITH CN 247)

BRUSSELS, AUG. 23 (RFE SPECIAL/DYBVIK) -- TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES ALMOST KEPT NEWSMEN FROM CONTACTING CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK DURING HIS BRIEF STOPOVER IN BRUSSELS THIS AFTERNOON.

AIRPORT AUTHORITIES WERE CAUTIOUS ABOUT LETTING ANYONE, EVEN NEWSMEN WITH PROPER CREDENTIALS ,ONTO THE AIRPORT TARMAC. ONE SENIOR NEWSMAN WHO HAS COVERED BRUSSELS FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS SAID HE HAD NEVER SEEN A SIMILAR SITUATION.

AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL SAID THE BELGIAN FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY HAD ORDERED THE TIGHT SCREEN SET UP AROUND HAJEK.

THE CHIEF OF FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT THE AIRPORT ORDERED THE PILOT OF THE PAN AMERICAN BOEING 707 JETLINER CARRYING HAJEK TO NEW YORK TO LOCK THE COCKPIT DOOR DURING THE FLIGHT AS AN EXTRA PRECAUTION AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE HIGHJACKING ATTEMPT.

HAJEK LOOKED FIT AND IN GOOD SPIRITS AS HE TALKED BRIEFLY WITH NEWSMEN AFTER CONFERRING INFORMALLY WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE HARMEL. BUT THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER SHOWED THE STRAIN OF THE PAST WEEK.

WHEN ASKED IF HE WERE EXHAUSTED, HAJEK SMILED, WRINKLING UP HIS WEARY EYES ALMOST HIDDEN BEHIND HIS THICK GLASSES, SHRUGGED AND THEN TURNED TO LEAVE FOR HIS WAITING PLANE.

"TIRED?" SAID ONE BELGIAN REPORTER. "HIS JOB IS JUST BEGINNING. AND I WISH HIM LUCK."

HAJEK, WHO HAD OVERHEARD THE COMMENT, TURNED AND SMILED HIS THANKS.

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