

CS- 2230 INTRO CS SITUATION

MUNICH, AUG 23 (REUTER) CZECHOSLOVAKIAS PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA TODAY TALKED WITH THE KREMLIN LEADERS ABOUT THE DRAMATIC EVENTS WHICH HAVE OVERWHELMED HIS COUNTRY SINCE SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT TROOPS INVADED ON WEDNESDAY.

AFTER A DAYS TOP LEVEL MEETINGS SVOBODA PREPARED FOR A SECOND DAYTALKS TOMORROW.

THE AGEING PRESIDENT FLEW TO MOSCOW TODAY TO MEET "THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOVIET UNION" AFTER TELLING HIS PEOPLE HIS MEETINGS IN PRAGUE WITH RED ARMY OFFICERS HAD ENDED IN "NO RESULT."

PRESIDENT SVOBODA HAD STEADFASTLY OPPOSED THE DEMANDS OF THE OCCUPATION ARMY IN HIS COUNTRY AND REFUSED TO SIGN A NEW GOVERNMENT LIST WHICH INCLUDED THE NAMES OF MEN NOW BRANDED TRAITORS AND COLLABORATORS BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKS.

PRESIDENT SVOBODAS TALKS WITH THE "BIG THREE" AT THE KREMLIN -- PARTY CHIEF LEONID BREZHNEV, PREMIER ALEXEI KOSYGIN AND PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNYY -- AS WELL AS OTHER SOVIET LEADERS TOOK PLACE IN A FRANK ATMOSPHERE, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY, TASS.

IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, PEOPLE CLEARED THE STREETS' AT NOON FOR THE DURATION OF A ONE-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND FOUR OF ITS WARSAW PACT ALLIES -- EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY, POLAND AND BULGARIA.

THROUGHOUT THE DAY PEOPLE WERE STEPPING UP ACTS OF ORGANISED, PASSIVE RESISTANCE -- BUILDING MAKE-SHIFT ROADBLOCKS, DAUBING "GO HOME" SLOGANS, SWITCHING ROAD DIRECTION SIGNS AND REMOVING STREET NAMES.

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