

THREE CZECHOSLOVAKS ASK FOR ASYLUM IN WEST BERLIN

BERLIN AUG. 23 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH)--THREE CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS CURRENTLY ON VISITS TO WEST BERLIN HAVE TOLD THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE PAST TWO DAYS THAT THEY WISH TO SEEK POLITICAL ASYLUM, A CITY GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN DISCLOSED TODAY.

APPROXIMATELY ANOTHER 20 VISITORS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE INFORMED THE PASSPORT SECTION AT WEST BERLIN POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT THEY WANT THE VALIDITY OF THEIR VISITORS PERMITS EXTENDED BEYOND THE NORMAL ONE-MONTH PERIOD, THE SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED. ACCORDING TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE SO FAR HAS EXTENDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SOME 40 VISITORS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHO ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY AT THIS TIME.

JEWISH CONGRESS: "HOMAGE TO A GALLANT NATION"

LONDON, AUG. 23, REUTER - DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, SAID TODAY JEWS FELT A SENSE OF SHOCK AND PROFOUND SYMPATHY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS FOLLOWING THE SOVIET OCCUPATION.

IN A STATEMENT, HE SAID: "WE PAY HOMAGE TO THIS GALLANT NATION WHICH NOW, FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS CENTURY, IS ENGAGED IN AN HEROIC AND UNEQUAL STRUGGLE TO DEFEND ITS RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE AND THE LIBERTIES OF ITS CITIZENS."

BANQUET CANCELLED

COVENTRY, ENGLAND, AUG. 23, REUTER - COVENTRY'S LORD MAYOR CALLED OFF A BANQUET FOR A RUSSIAN TRADE DELEGATION TODAY -- SO THEY WENT TO LUNCH IN A FACTORY CANTEEN.

THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMAN LEONARD LAMB, SAID HE DID IT BECAUSE HE HEARD OF SPIRITED RESISTANCE BY CZECHOSLOVAKS TO OCCUPYING SOVIET TROOPS IN THE TOWN OF OSTRAVA WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES WITH COVENTRY.

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