

CN 323

ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED

CS - A HOWL OF PROTEST (RELEADS CN 263

PRAGUE AUG 23 (XU PI)-- THOUSANDS OF CZECHS STOPPED WORK AND LEANED ON THEIR CAR HORNS TODAY IN A DEAFENING ELECTRICAL HOWL OF PROTEST AGAINST THE SOVIET OCCUPATION FORCES IN THEIR CITY.

AT THE STROKE OF NOON THE CITY BEGAN A ONE HOUR PROTEST STRIKE.

EVERYBODY WHO COULD GET TO A CAR HORN HONKED IT AND THE STIRRING, ALMOST MOURNFUL WAIL OF THE HORNS FILLED THE CITY.

SOME 10,000 PERSONS IN WENCESLAS SQUARE SHORTLY BEFORE NOON BEGAN YELLING AT THE RUSSIAN SOLDIERS "AT NOON ALL YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE IN THE SQUARE."

THEN THE SQUARE EMPTIED LEAVING THE MESSAGE CLEAR: IN THE VAST SQUARE NOT A SINGLE "FRIEND" OF THE RUSSIANS WAS IN SIGHT.

ALL AROUND CZECHOSLOVAKS HONKED HORNS, TRIPPED BURGLAR ALARMS AND ROARED OUT IN PROTEST.

ON A SIDE STREET LEADING TO THE SQUARE A LARGE BLUE TRUCK MARKED THE START OF THE STRIKE BY SCREECHING TO A HALT. SOME 100 METERS AWAY BLOCKING THE STREET. THE DRIVER LEANED ON HIS HORN.

THE DIN WAS EERIE, MADDENING. NOBODY SAID A WORD, MAINLY BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT BE HEARD. THEY JUST LOOKED DOWN THE STREET TOWARD THE SQUARE AND SOME 15 TANKS STILL PARKED THERE.

BG/ O 2300/68

RT 14.