

CN 223

CS - 1930 INTRO - TALKS TO CONTINUE

PRAGUE, AUG 24, REUTER - CZECHOSLOVAK PATRIOTS BURNED SOVIET PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS DROPPED FROM THE AIR OVER PRAGUE TODAY WHILE THE NATION AWAITED NEWS ABOUT THE CRUCIAL MOSCOW CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THEIR PRESIDENT AND SOVIET LEADERS.

THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS SAID TONIGHT THE MOSCOW TALKS WILL CONTINUE SUNDAY.

THREE FREE CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO-STATIONS REPORTED THAT COMMUNIST PARTY FIRST SECRETARY ALEXANDER DUBCEK AND PREMIER OLDRICH CERNIK HAD BEEN TAKEN TO MOSCOW. ONE OF THE STATIONS, RADIO FREE NORTH SLOVAKIA, SAID THEY WERE TAKING PART IN THE TALKS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS.

THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM ANY OFFICIAL SOURCE.

SOVIET HELICOPTERS FLEW UP AND DOWN OVER WENCESLAS SQUARE IN THE HEART OF PRAGUE TODAY DROPPING THOUSANDS OF LEAFLETS CARRYING THE PROCLAMATION TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE ISSUED YESTERDAY BY THE FIVE WARSAW PACT NATIONS WHICH MARCHED IN LATE ON TUESDAY NIGHT.

YOUTHS RAN THROUGH THE SQUARE SNATCHING THE LEAFLETS FROM PEOPLES HANDS AND TEARING THEM UP OR BURNING THEM ON A BONFIRE BEFORE THE BULLET-SCARRED NATIONAL MUSEUM.

WHILE STUDENTS BELLOWED APPEALS THROUGH MEGAPHONES TO PEOPLE TO SIGN APPEALS FOR THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINED NATIONAL LEADERS AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF OCCUPYING TROOPS, SOVIET TANK CREWS LAY SPRAWLED IN THE SUNSHINE ON GUN TURRETS.

CZECHOSLOVAKS, IN A SOUR PARODY OF A FAIRGROUND MOOD, LICKED ICE CREAM CONES AS THEY STOOD AROUND THE TANKS AND ARMoured CARS, JEERING AT THE RUSSIANS..

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