

C/S -- SHOOTING OUTBREAK REPORTED IN PRAGUE

(ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

MUNICH, AUG 24 (CNR/CMD/AGENCIES)-- WESTERN AND CZECHOSLOVAK REPORTS FROM PRAGUE TONIGHT SAID THERE HAD BEEN ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF SHOOTING IN THE CITY.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE WARNED MOTORISTS TO STAY AWAY FROM THE CENTER OF THE CITY BECAUSE, THE RADIO SAID, CARS WERE BEING SHOT AT WITHOUT WARNING.

THE RADIO SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME FATALITIES.

REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN PRAGUE REPORTED THAT THERE WAS MACHINE GUN FIRE AS SOVIET TROOPS SEIZED A GROUP OF CZECHOSLOVAK PATRIOTS WHO HAD BEEN HURLING PRO-DUBCEK LEAFLETS FROM A CAR IN WENCESLAS SQUARE.

THE REUTERS REPORT SAID THAT THE SOVIET SOLDIERS FIRED OVER THE CAR WHICH SKIDDED TO A HALT. THE OCCUPANTS-- THREE MEN AND A WOMAN -- WERE TAKEN AWAY AT PISTOL POINT, THE REUTER REPORT SAID.

CROWDS OF PEOPLE IN THE SQUARE BURST INTO BOOS AND JEERS, THE REUTERS REPORT SAID.

THE WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY DPA CARRIED A SIMILAR REPORT. IT SAID THAT THE WOMAN AND THREE MEN WERE MARCHED AWAY AT GUNPOINT AFTER THE SOVIET SOLDIERS HAD FIRED A VOLLEY ABOVE THEIR CAR.

THE DPA REPORT ADDED THAT SOME OF THE BULLETS RICOCHETTED OFF ROOFS, AND PEOPLE IN THE SQUARE DUCKED INTO DOORWAYS IN ORDER NOT TO BE WOUNDED.

JON/U/RT 2255/68