

CN 296

C/S -- SVOBODA MESSAGE TO HAJEK REPORTED

(ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

MUNICH, AUG 24 (CNR/AGENCIES)-- WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES TONIGHT QUOTED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS IN MOSCOW THAT PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD SENT A MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK IN NEW YORK INSTRUCTING HIM TO WITHDRAW THE CZECHOSLOVAK CASE FROM THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

(RFE SPECIAL/ENDRST)-- IN NEW YORK, HOWEVER, DR. HAJEK TOLD REPORTERS HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE REPORT.

BOTH UNITED PRESS AND AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE CARRIED THE REPORT IN DISPATCHES FROM MOSCOW. UPI QUOTED "PERSONS CLOSE TO SVOBODA". AFP SAID THE INFORMATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO IT OFFICIALLY, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT IDENTIFY THE SOURCE.

RFE'S UN CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT HAJEK ASKED ABOUT THE AFP REPORT, SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT SVOBODA SINCE HE ARRIVED IN NEW YORK FRIDAY EVENING.

HE SAID DIFFICULT COMMUNICATIONS WERE TO BLAME.

HAJEK WAS TALKING TO NEWSMEN IN THE LOBBIES OF THE UN BUILDING AFTER HE HAD ADDRESSED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TODAY.

HE TOLD THE COUNCIL THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT HAD NOT RTPT NOT INVITED THE SOVIET AND OTHER FOREIGN TROOPS ONTO CZECHOSLOVAK TERRITORY, AND CALLED FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE TONIGHT QUOTED PARIS RADIO AS SAYING THAT HAJEK HAD RECEIVED SUCH A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT SVOBODA. IT QUOTED PARIS RADIO AS SAYING THAT, ACCORDING TO SVOBODA'S MESSAGE, HAJEK SHOULD TRY TO HAVE THE SUBJECT WITHDRAWN FROM SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

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3