

CN 18
CS - HELP FOR CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS

MUNICH, AUG 25 (CNR)- THOUSANDS OF CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS, STRANDED IN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE BY THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF THEIR HOMELAND, ARE RECEIVING RAPID ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. HERE IS A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY RUNDOWN OF HELP AVAILABLE.

IN YUGOSLAVIA SEVERAL THOUSAND CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS ARE RECEIVING FREE LODGING, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION. VARIOUS YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CALLED FOR ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR THE STRANDED TOURISTS, AND HUNDREDS OF THEM HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY PRIVATE CITIZENS. IN ZAGREB WHERE THERE ARE ABOUT 2000 CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS, A TOBACCO FACTORY IS DELIVERING REGULAR SUPPLIES OF CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO, TAXI RIDES ARE FREE, AND THE STATE TRANSPORTATION ENTERPRISE AUTOTRANS IS CARRYING CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS ON ITS BUSES FREE OF CHARGE THROUGHOUT YUGOSLAVIA.

RUMANIA ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY IT WILL HELP CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS IN THE COUNTRY BY EXTENDING ACCOMODATIONS FOR THEM IN HOTELS, STUDENT HOMES AND PRIVATE APARTMENTS. FREE MEDICAL AID WILL BE GIVEN TO ANYONE IN NEED, THE GOVERNMENT SAID.

ITALY'S MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HAS ORDERED THE ISSUING OF DOCUMENTS FOR AN UNLIMITED STAY TO ANY CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS SEEKING ASYLUM. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL PAY THE HOTEL BILLS FOR ANY CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS STRANDED WITHOUT MONEY UNTIL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO CARE FOR THEM.

THE WEST GERMAN RED CROSS IS PROVIDING EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION FOR CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS, AND WEST GERMAN TRADE UNIONS ARE ARRANGING FOR TEMPORARY WORK FOR TOURISTS STRANDED WITHOUT MONEY. THE CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE MISSION IN FRANKFURT/MAIN SAID IT CAN EXTEND FOREIGN TRAVEL PERMITS FOR CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS IN URGENT CASES, BUT WAS RECOMMENDING "IN PRINCIPLE" THAT THEY RETURN HOME.

SWITZERLAND'S GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED CANTONAL (PROVINCIAL) OFFICIALS TO GIVE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO CZECHOSLOVAK TOURISTS, WITH THE FEDERAL TREASURY BEARING THE COST. THREE PRIVATE RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO READY TO HELP STRANDED TOURISTS.

THE LONDON HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS AND ANOTHER ORGANIZATION, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS, REPORT MORE THAN 700 OFFERS OF ACCOMMODATION FOR CZECHOSLOVAK STUDENTS OR TOURISTS STRANDED IN BRITAIN.

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