

CN 49

CS -- TALKS CONTINUE, SHOOTING OVERNIGHT (0730 INTRO)

MUNICH, AUGUST 25 (CNR) -- CZECHOSLOVAK-SOVIET TALKS CONTINUE IN THE KREMLIN TODAY WITH MISSING LEADERS, INCLUDING PARTY CHIEF ALEXANDER DUBCEK, TAKING PART.

FREE CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO STATIONS AND WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES REPORTING ON THE OVERNIGHT SCENE SAID EARLY TODAY THAT THERE HAD AGAIN BEEN SHOOTING IN PRAGUE.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE SAID THAT APPARENTLY THE OCCUPATION TROOPS WANTED TO FORCE OBSERVANCE OF A CURFEW.

A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT REPORTING FROM PRAGUE SAID THAT SOVIET TROOPS MOVED THROUGH WENCESLAS SQUARE IN THE CENTRE OF PRAGUE OVERNIGHT, RIPPING DOWN POSTERS AND OBLITERATING SIGNS OF SUPPORT FOR DUBCEK.

A FEW HOURS EARLIER, REUTERS SAID, THE SOVIET TROOPS CLEARED WENCESLAS SQUARE, FIRING BURSTS FROM MACHINE GUNS MOUNTED ON TANK TURRETS. BULLETS SHATTERED ROOFS ON SURROUNDING BUILDINGS BRINGING SLATES DOWN ONTO THE PAVEMENTS.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE SAID THAT SHOOTING BEGAN AFTER 2200 M.T. , THE CURFEW TIME. IT SAID IT APPARENTLY WAS AIMED AT POINTING OUT THAT THERE WAS A CURFEW.

THE RADIO BROADCAST BEGAN ITS NEWS CAST "GOOD MORNING, DEAR FRIENDS, IT IS AUGUST 25, THE FIFTH DAY OF THE OCCUPATION. PRAGUE DID NOT SLEEP VERY WELL LAST NIGHT. SHOOTING COULD BE HEARD AT VARIOUS PLACES FROM THE EVENING UNTIL THE MORNING. THE OCCUPATION FORCES OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING."

THE RADIO SAID THAT SHOTS WERE FIRED NOT ONLY AT CARS AND MOTORCYCLES BUT ALSO AT POLICE VEHICLES AND THERE WERE AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF FATALITIES.

THE RADIO ADDED THAT ONE AMBULANCE WAS SHOT TO PIECES. (MORE)

BMCG/LA 0730/68 AUG 25