

CN 99 (ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

C/S - INCIDENT IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW AUG 25 REUTER - AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE WERE DETAINED BY PLAIN CLOTHES MEN IN MOSCOWS RED SQUARE TODAY, APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH A PLANNED PROTEST BY MOSCOW INTELLECTUALS AGAINST THE SOVIET AND ALLIED OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ONLY METRES FROM THE KREMLIN, WHERE SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS WERE HOLDING THEIR THIRD DAY OF SUMMIT TALKS.

IT WAS WITNESSED BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS WHO WENT TO THE SQUARE AFTER RUMOURS SPREAD THAT A GROUP OF 15 MOSCOW INTELLECTUALS PLANNED TO STAGE A SIT-DOWN PROTEST AGAINST THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

AN HOUR AFTER THE SCHEDULED TIME, 1100 LOCAL (0900 MT), NOTHING HAD HAPPENED AND THE CORRESPONDENTS BEGAN TO LEAVE.

AS THEY DID SO, THEY HEARD A COMMOTION BEHIND THEM AND SAW PLAIN-CLOTHES MEN, ALWAYS ON DUTY IN THE SQUARE, STRUGGLING WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE.

THEY SAW AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE BUNDLED INTO BLUE CARS WITH NORMAL REGISTRATION PLATES. ONE OF THEM, A WOMAN WITH BABY IN ARMS, WAS CARRIED BODILY INTO THE CAR. A BABY-CARRIAGE WAS PUT INTO THE BOOT.

A PARTY OF WEST GERMAN TOURISTS PHOTOGRAPHED THE INCIDENT BUT THE PLAIN-CLOTHES MEN TOLD THEM: "YOU ARE ILLEGALLY FILMING DRUNKEN PEOPLE" AND DEMAND^(ED) THEY EXPOSE THEIR FILM.

BMCG/HE

1330/68

M

103