

E/W -- FIREWORKS AT SOVIET EMBASSY (RELEADS CN 175)

LONDON, AUG 25, REUTER - DEMONSTRATORS HURLED FIREWORKS, BOTTLES AND CANS NEAR THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE TODAY FOLLOWING A RALLY AT WHICH TWO PROMINENT LABOUR PARTY LEADERS DEMANDED THE WITHDRAWAL OF WARSAW PACT TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE, CHANTING "DUBCEK, DUBCEK" MARCHED ON THE SOVIET EMBASSY, WHERE THEY THREW FIREWORKS AT PASSING CARS AND BOTTLES AND CANS AT STRONG POLICE GUARDS SEALING OFF A PRIVATE ROAD TO THE EMBASSY.

POLICE SAID 17 DEMONSTRATORS WERE ARRESTED AND AMBULANCE OFFICIALS REPORTED ONE PERSON INJURED.

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY IN THE PRESENT LABOUR GOVERNMENT MR. GEORGE BROWN, AND CABINET MINISTER MR. RICHARD CROSSMAN TOLD 10,000 PEOPLE ATTENDING A LABOUR PARTY RALLY IN CENTRAL LONDON THAT AN EAST-WEST DETENTE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT WITHDRAWAL OF THE OCCUPATION TROOPS.

BOTH MEN WERE CONSTANTLY BOOED AND HECKLED BY SECTIONS OF THE CROWD, BUT MR. BROWN -- DEPUTY LEADER OF THE LABOUR PARTY -- DREW CHEERS WHEN HE SAID RUSSIA SHOULD "FREE THE CZECH LEADERS, END THE OCCUPATION AND LET US RENEW THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND COOPERATIVE EXISTENCE."

PART OF THE CROWD LATER MARCHED TWO MILES (THREE KMS) TO WHERE ABOUT 60 POLICE BARRED THEIR ENTRY TO THE ROAD IN WHICH THE SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSIES ARE LOCATED. THEY CARRIED BANNERS READING "CASTRATE THE KREMLIN BUTCHERS."

DESPITE SHOUTS OF "LET US IN, FASCISTS," AND "RUSSIANS WE WANT YOU" POLICE KEPT THE LARGE IRON GATES TO THE ROAD FIRMLY CLOSED AND PREVENTED SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS FORCING ENTRY BY RIPPING UP NEARBY RAILINGS.