

C/S -- SITUATION IN PRAGUE

MUNICH AUG 25 (CNR)-- BURSTS OF GUNFIRE AND INCREASING TENSION WERE REPORTED FROM PRAGUE TODAY AS FRESH TROOPS IN GROWING STRENGTH REPLACED THE FIRST OCCUPATION FORCES. ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, TIGHTER CURFEW ENFORCEMENT RESULTED IN ONE MAN SHOT DEAD IN THE CITY CENTER.

IN WENCESLAS SQUARE AN ARMoured CAR WITH LOUDSPEAKERS BLARED OUT RUSSIAN POP MUSIC AND ANNOUNCEMENTS IN RUSSIAN, WHICH WERE DROWNED OUT BY JEERS OF CZECHOSLOVAKS IN THE SQUARE. SHOTS FIRED INTO THE AIR SENT SOME PEOPLE SCURRYING FOR SIDE STREETS BUT MOST OF THE CROWD IGNORED THE FIRING AND REMAINED IN THE SQUARE, ACCORDING TO WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AND FREE RADIO REPORTS.

RADIO FREE PRAGUE REPORTED THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC SECURITY (POLICE HEADQUARTERS) HAD BEEN OCCUPIED. THE RADIO SAID SEVEN OCCUPATION OFFICERS REMAINED IN THE BUILDING AND THAT "DIRECTION OF SUBORDINATE UNITS" WAS MADE VERY DIFFICULT.

THE NEW OCCUPATION TROOPS WERE BUSILY TEARING DOWN PRO-DUBCEK AND ANTI-RUSSIAN POSTERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. CZECHOSLOVAK YOUTHS WERE REPLACING THEM WITH FRESH POSTERS AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT ABOUT FIFTY YOUTHS WERE ARRESTED NEAR WENCESLAS SQUARE WHILE PASSING OUT LEAFLETS OR PUTTING UP PLACARDS, ACCORDING TO UPI.

BUSES AND STREETCARS WERE RUNNING IN THE CENTER OF PRAGUE DESPITE THE HEAVIEST CONCENTRATIONS OF ARMOR YET SEEN IN THE CAPITAL, WITH TANKS AND ARMoured CARS STATIONED AT EVERY INTERSECTION. IN THE SUBURBS STREETS WERE MOSTLY DESERTED EXCEPT FOR OCCUPATION VEHICLES. "THE LARGEST ARMOR AND TROOPS MOVEMENTS SINCE WEDNESDAY" WERE REPORTED BY THE SLOVAK LANGUAGE FREE RADIO DANUBE THIS MORNING. "RADIO GOTTWALDOV IN MORAVIA CAUTIONED LISTENERS NOT TO WORRY ABOUT THE HEAVY TRAFFIC OF TANKS AND TROOPS. THE RADIO SAID THEY WERE MERELY REPLACEMENTS FOR THE "DISILLUSIONED" FIRST OCCUPATION FORCES. CZECHOSLOVAK FREE TELEVISION REPORTED PLANES LANDING MORE TROOPS AT PRAGUE'S RUZYNE AIRPORT.

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