

CN 204''''''

(ATtribution REQUIRED)

CS - GUNFIRE REPORTED IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE, AUG. 25 (REUTER/AFP) - WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS REPOTED FROM PRAGUE TONIGHT THAT THERE WAS GUNFIRE IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY BEFORE THE 2200 MT CURFEW WENT INTO EFFECT.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SAID THE SHOOTING STARTED IN THE VICINITY OF WENCESLAS SQUARE SHORTLY BEFORE 2100 MT AND LASTED ABOUT TEN MINUTES.

THE AFP CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT AFTER THE FIRING A "TOTAL SILENCE" FELL UPON "A CITY TOTALLY DESERTED".

REUTERS CORRESPONDENT SAID THE GUNFIRE SHOOK WINDOWS IN CENTRAL PRAGUE FOLLOWING AN UNEASY DAY IN WHICH SOVIET TROOPS FIRED BURSTS OVER THE HEADS OF CZECHOSLOVAK CROWDS.

REUTERS SAID IT WAS THE FIFTH NIGHT IN SUCCESSION THAT TRACER FIRE HAD BEEN SEEN.

(REUTER CORRESPONDENT VINCENT BUIST SAID THERE WAS ALSO FIRE FROM TANK CANNONS. HE CALLED IT THE MOST SPECTACULAR DISPLAY OF SOVIET FIREPOWER SINCE LAST TUESDAYS INVASION.

(MORE)

TB/HI

2315/68/3

EA