

CN 11 (ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

CS - 0100 INTRO SHOOTING IN PRAGUE

PRAGUE, AUG. 26 (CNR/AGENCIES)- THERE WAS MORE GUNFIRE IN THE STREETS OF PRAGUE SUNDAY NIGHT. WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK CAPITAL SAID IT WAS THE LARGEST DISPLAY OF SOVIET FIRE-POWER SINCE THE INVASION TUESDAY NIGHT.

ACCORDING TO WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES, THE SHOOTING BEGAN BEFORE THE NIGHTLY 2200 MT CURFEW TIME AND INCLUDED BOTH SPECTACULAR TRACER FIRE FROM AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND ROUNDS FROM TANK CANNONS.

ON PREVIOUS EVENINGS SINCE THE INVASION, SPORADIC GUNFIRE BY OCCUPATION TROOPS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PRAGUE AFTER 2200 - APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO MAKE RESIDENTS AWARE OF THE CURFEW.

THE FRENCH NEWS AGENCY AFP REPORTED THAT SUNDAY'S SHOOTING BEGAN IN THE VICINITY OF WENCESLAS SQUARE SHORTLY BEFORE 2100 MT. AFP SAID THAT AFTER ABOUT TEN MINUTES THE CITY FELL SILENT AGAIN.

THE WEST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY DPA SAID THERE WERE "UNBROKEN SALVOS" FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF PRAGUE'S MAIN RAILROAD STATION. DPA SAID THE SHOOTING TOOK PLACE AT ABOUT 2140 MT AND CAME FROM MACHINE GUNS, MACHINE PISTOLS AND TANKS.

DPA CORRESPONDENT WILHELM KRASSER SAID THE NOISE OF THE GUNFIRE COULD BE HEARD THROUGHOUT THE CITY. HE SAID IT WAS THE HEAVIEST ROUND OF FIRING SINCE THE INVASION BEGAN.

REUTERS CORRESPONDENT VINCENT BUIST ALSO TERMED IT THE MOST SPECTACULAR DEMONSTRATION OF SOVIET FIREPOWER SINCE THE CITY WAS OCCUPIED.

(MORE) TB/E 0111/63/3

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