

CN 90

(ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

X/13 CS-- RUSSIAN TROOPER GRABBED PHONE FROM DUBCEK'S HAND

MUNICH, AUGUST 26 (GND/IM)-- WHEN THE RUSSIAN OCCUPIED THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN PRAGUE LAST WEDNESDAY A PARATROOPER SEIZED THE TELEPHONE FROM ALEXANDER DUBCEK'S HAND, RADIO PRAGUE SAID IN AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWS-CAST TODAY.

THE PARATROOPER, IT ADDED, HAD NO IDEA THAT HE WAS ROUGH-HANDLING THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND LATER APOLOGISED.

THE RADIO SAID THAT MORE DETAILS OF THE SEIZURE OF THE BUILDING ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE OCCUPATION HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC IN PRAGUE SUNDAY.

RADIO PRAGUE ADDED: "THE TROOPS WHO WERE SENT TO SEIZE THE BUILDING OBVIOUSLY HAD NO IDEA THAT THEY WERE BEING SENT AGAINST TOP PARTY AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES."

IT DESCRIBED HOW A CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY OFFICIAL PRESENTED A RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE COPY OF "THE GOOD SOLDIER SCHWEIK" TO THE SOVIET COLONEL IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION.

LATER, THE BROADCAST SAID, THE COLONEL "ADMITTED WITH TEAR IN HIS EYES THAT HE WAS ASHAMED OF WHAT HE HAD HAD TO CARRY OUT".

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MD/ O *bx* 1320/68 *NH*