

CN 98

X/13 C/S - 1ST ADD FRENCH DOWN TOOLS )CN 97)XXX FRANCE

ONE PROTEST GROUP ANNOUNCED IT HAD GATHERED 250,000 SIGNATURES ON ITS PETITION WITH 48 HOURS. THE PARIS PAPER, AURORE, PUBLISHED A BLANK FORM AND URGED ITS 450,000 READERS TO GATHER SIGNATURES ON IT FOR A PETITION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS. ANOTHER CAMPAIGN WAS LAUNCHED BY A GROUP OF YOUNG SYMPATHIZERS WHO URGED FRENCH UNDER-20S TO MAIL A MILLION POSTCARDS OF SOLIDARITY TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY.

AT THE EMBASSY, DIPLOMATS AND CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS IN FRANCE HELD A MEETING OVER THE WEEKEND AND ISSUED A NEW STATEMENT DEMANDING IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE FORCES WHICH HAD CARRIED OUT THE "VIOLENT & ILLEGAL, AND UNJUSTIFIABLE OCCUPATION" OF THEIR COUNTRY.

IN WESTERN FRANCE, THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL BALLET ENDED ITS TWO-MONTH TOUR OF FRANCE WITH A FINAL PERFORMANCE AT POITIERS WHERE SEVERAL THOUSAND RESPONDED WITH RINGING APPLAUSE TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ANTHEM.

IN NORTHWEST FRANCE, THE BRETON TOWN OF RENNES, SISTER-CITY OF BRNO IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, RAN UP THE CZECHOSLOVAK FLAG OVER CITY HALL IN A GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY.

AND IN NORTHERN FRANCE SYMPATHIZERS ARE ORGANIZING A TRUCK CONVOY THAT WILL TOUR A DOZEN CITIES THIS WEEK COLLECTING FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND CLOTHING FOR CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES.

BG/ O 1400/68 AUG 26. IV R