

ATtribution REQUIRED

CS --- 15 KILLED

PRAGUE, AUG.26, REUTER - SOVIET TROOPS HAVE KILLED AT LEAST 15 PEOPLE AND WOUNDED ABOUT 200 IN PRAGUE SINCE THEY MARCHED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA FIVE DAYS AGO, A POLICE SPOKESMAN SAID HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THAT NOT MORE THAN 100 POLITICAL LEADERS, INTELLECTUALS AND JOURNALISTS HAD BEEN ARRESTED SINCE THE WARSAW PACT INVASION. SOME OF THE ARRESTS WERE MADE BY THE RUSSIANS THEMSELVES, BUT MOST WERE CARRIED OUT BY A GROUP OF COLLABORATORS IN THE SECRET POLICE--"ABOUT 20 OR 30 OF THEM IN ALL, HE SAID.

"THE PRISONERS ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE RUSSIANS, BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHERE," HE SAID.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A REUTER CORRESPONDENT, THE SPOKESMAN DISCOUNTED SOME OF THE WORST ATROCITY STORIES CIRCULATING IN PRAGUE ABOUT RUSSIAN BEHAVIOUR.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE RUSSIANS HAD SHOT AT THE TYRES OF CZECHOSLOVAK POLICE CARS DRIVING AROUND THE CITY AFTER CURFEW, HE KNEW OF NO CONFIRMED CASE OF THEIR SHOOTING UP RED CROSS AMBULANCES. BUT AS FAR AS HE KNEW NO REAL RED CROSS VEHICLE HAD BEEN HIT.

THE WOMAN OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF THE CITY'S MAIN AMBULANCE STATION CONFIRMED THIS. SHE SAID THEIR ONLY CASUALTY HAD BEEN AN AMBULANCE BADLY DAMAGED IN A COLLISION WITH A SOVIET TANK.

HOWEVER, AN AMBULANCE DRIVER TOLD A REUTER CORRESPONDENT IN WENCESLAS SQUARE THAT HE AND A DOCTOR HAD TO RUN FOR COVER UNDER FIRE FROM A SOVIET TANK, WHICH SWUNG INTO THEIR PATH AS THEY DROVE THROUGH THE CITY ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

THE MAN PULLED UP HIS SHIRT TO SHOW LIVID BRUISES ON HIS STOMACH AND SIDES, WHICH HE SAID HE HAD SUFFERED WHEN HE JUMPED FROM THE MOVING AMBULANCE.

(MORE)

MBW/O

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