

CN 25'' (ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

CS - FIRE REPORTED AT U.S. EMBASSY

PRAGUE, AUG 26 (UPI/REUTER)- WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES REPORTED EARLY TODAY THAT FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT ON THE ROOF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PRAGUE.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL SAID THE FIRE STARTED AT 0150 MT AND WAS PRECEDED BY SHOOTING IN THE AREA.

REUTERS NEWS AGENCY CARRIED A SIMILAR REPORT, SAYING THAT THE FIRE AND SHOOTING OCCURRED SHORTLY BEFORE 0200 MT.

REUTERS ATTRIBUTED ITS ACCOUNT TO A BROADCAST BY FREE RADIO PRAGUE. MONITORS IN MUNICH HAVE SO FAR NOT RPT NOT HEARD THE PRAGUE BROADCAST, HOWEVER.

UPI SAID ITS COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CZECHOSLOVAK CAPITAL BROKE DOWN SHORTLY AFTER ITS CORRESPONDENT FILED THE FIRE REPORT. UPI SAID IT WAS ATTEMPTING TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

SPORADIC FIRING HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE NIGHTLY IN PRAGUE SINCE THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY WARSAW PACT TROOPS.

TB/E 1517/68/5

RF