

CN 215

CS - WAIDHAUS BORDER CLOSED

WAIDHAUS, AUG 26 (RFE SPECIAL/WM) - THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AUTHORITIES TONIGHT CLOSED THIS BORDER CROSSING POINT BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA FOR ALL ENTRANTS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXCEPT RETURNING CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CITIZENS.

WEST GERMAN BORDER AUTHORITIES SAID THEY HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN BORDER GUARDS THAT EXCEPTIONS WOULD ALSO BE MADE FOR NON-CZECHOSLOVAKS WHO CARRIED TELEGRAMS OR OTHER PROOF OF HARDSHIP AS REASONS FOR THEIR TRIP.

THE CROSSING POINT REMAINS OPEN FOR TRAFFIC OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

UP TO THIS EVENING, THE BORDER CROSSING POINT HAD REMAINED OPENED FOR ALL ENTRANTS INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXCEPT JOURNALISTS AS LONG AS THEY CARRIED VALID PAPERS.

WEST GERMAN BORDER POLICE SAID THE MOVE CAME AS A SURPRISE THIS EVENING. NO REASON WAS GIVEN, THEY SAID.

JON/A 2131/68 AUG 26/5

RT