

CN 240

X/4 C/S -- 1ST ADD MOSCOW TALKS CONTINUE

(CN 239) XXX CITIZENS

EARLIER TONIGHT, FREE RADIO CENTRAL BOHEMIA SAID STROUGAL HAD TOLD A CORRESPONDENT OF THE RADIO THAT THE PRESENCE OF OCCUPATION TROOPS WAS PREVENTING A NORMALIZATION OF LIFE AND WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

STROUGAL SAID "THE GOVERNMENT JUST AS ALL CITIZENS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, IMPATIENTLY FOLLOW THE DRAWN OUT NEGOTIATIONS IN MOSCOW PARTICULARLY NOW WHEN THE SOVIET SIDE BROADENED THE NEGOTIATIONS BY FOUR OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES WHICH OCCUPIED CZECHOSLOVAKIA."

THE DEPUTY PREMIER SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD SEVERAL TIMES SUCCEEDED IN COMMUNICATING BY TELEPHONE WITH PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA AND SOME GOVERNMENT MEMBERS HAD ALSO SPOKEN WITH PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK.

"THEY ARE INFORMING THEM ABOUT THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT NORMAL THAT THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVES OF A FREE STATE HAVE NOT RPT NOT IN MOSCOW THE POSSIBILITY OF A FREE AND UNDISTURBED CONNECTION WITH THEIR OWN COUNTRY," STROUGAL SAID.

"ALL THIS IS CREATING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA A DIFFICULT ATMOSPHERE. DESPITE THIS PEOPLE TRY -- AS THE GOVERNMENT KNOWS -- TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST A MINIMUM BALANCE OF OUR ECONOMY!"

(MORE) LD/U AUG 26

2308/68

RT

15