

CN 35

(ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED)

CS - TANK MOVEMENTS REPORTED

PRAGUE, AUGUST 27 (CNR/AGENCIES) -- WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS IN PRAGUE REPORTED LAST NIGHT THAT THERE HAD BEEN EXTENSIVE SOVIET TANK MOVEMENTS IN THE CITY.

THE CORRESPONDENTS OF BOTH REUTERS AND UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THE TANK MOVEMENTS.

THE REUTERS CORRESPONDENT SAID THE TANKS APPEARED TO BE PULLING OUT OF THE CENTRE OF THE CITY, WHILE UPI SAID THE TANK CONCENTRATION IN PRAGUE APPEARED TO BE THINNING OUT. UPI SAID THAT TANK REINFORCEMENTS MOVED INTO PRAGUE EARLIER MONDAY HAD LEFT.

UPI QUOTED AN EYEWITNESS AS SAYING THAT A LONG COLUMN OF SOVIET TANKS HAD BEEN SEEN MOVING AWAY FROM PRAGUE IN A SOUTH-EASTERLY DIRECTION. REUTERS SAID THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS THAT TANKS WERE BEING PULLED OUT OF OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK TOWNS.

FOR THE FIFTH SUCCESSIVE NIGHT, THERE WAS MACHINEGUN FIRE REPORTED IN PRAGUE.

THE UNITED PRESS CORRESPONDENT WHO HEARD IT SAID HE COULD NOT PINPOINT THE AREA. HE SAID IT TOOK PLACE ABOUT 0100 MT.

THE PREVIOUS FOUR EVENINGS THERE HAD BEEN BURSTS OF MACHINEGUN FIRE IN THE CENTRE OF PRAGUE SOON AFTER THE CURFEW TIME OF 2000 HOURS.

WENCESLAS SQUARE, WHERE THERE HAD BEEN SHOOTING ON PREVIOUS EVENINGS, WAS DESERTED JUST BEFORE THE CURFEW LAST NIGHT, THE UPI CORRESPONDENT SAID. THE CITY SEEMED DESERTED, AND THE ONLY SOUND WAS THE RUMBLE OF SOVIET TANKS MOVING THROUGH THE CAPITAL.

JON/LA 0315/68 AUG 27/3

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