

CN 257

C/S -- 2000 INTRO CZECHOSLOVAKIA

MUNICH, AUG 27 (CNR)-- THE CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP RETURNED TO PRAGUE FROM MOSCOW TODAY AND TOLD THEIR NATION THAT OCCUPATION TROOPS WOULD REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY FOR THE TIME BEING.

PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK, SPEAKING FROM HRDCANY CASTLE THIS EVENING AFTER A GOVERNMENT MEETING, SAID THE ISSUE WAS THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS. HE ALSO TOLD HIS COUNTRY THE MEASURES OF DEMOCRACY ACHIEVED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED TEMPORARILY.

EARLIER, PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA DECLARED IN A RADIO SPEECH THAT THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS WAS A "POLITICAL REALITY."

THE SPEECHES FOLLOWED A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED IN MOSCOW AFTER THE SOVIET CZECHOSLOVAK TALKS WHICH ENDED THERE EARLY THIS MORNING.

THE COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT THE SOVIET AND OTHER WARSAW PACT OCCUPATION FORCES WOULD NOT RPT NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

IT SAID THE FORCES WOULD BE REMOVED "AS THE SITUATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA NORMALIZED."

THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO EXPRESSED THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF THE SOVIET SIDE FOR THE POSITION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY AND GOVERNMENT.

MR. DUBCEK, IN HIS SPEECH THIS EVENING, SAID ALL THE COUNTRY'S PROPERLY ELECTED BODIES WOULD RESUME THEIR WORK.

HE WARNED THAT FURTHER BLOODSHED MUST BE PREVENTED, OR THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE PROLONGED.

"WE ARE CONVINCED," HE SAID, "THAT WE WILL FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO DEVELOP A NORMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS.

HE SAID THE SOVIETS WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

(MORE) JON/U 1952/68 Z