

CN 299

CS - 2300. INTRO -- DUBCEK SPEECH

PRAGUE, AUG 27 (CNR/AGENCIES) -- CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALEXANDER DUBCEK TOLD THE NATION IN AN EMOTIONAL ADDRESS TODAY THAT THE COUNTRY'S SITUATION DID NOT RPT NOT DEPEND ONLY ON ITS OWN WILL.

IN A 25-MINUTE ADDRESS FROM HRDCANY CASTLE, BROADCAST OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION, DUBCEK SAID ALL OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S PROPERLY ELECTED BODIES WOULD RESUME THEIR WORK.

DUBCEK WEPT DURING HIS SPEECH AND WAS REPEATEDLY UNABLE TO CONTINUE SPEAKING FOR SEVERAL SECONDS. HE HAD BEEN TAKEN TO MOSCOW THURSDAY FOLLOWING WARSAW PACT INVASION A WEEK AGO AND RETURNED TO PRAGUE THIS MORNING.

THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION, DUBCEK SAID, "IS NOT RPT NOT ONLY DEPENDENT ON OUR OWN WILL. WE ARE AWARE OF THIS."

HE SAID "WE MUST PREVENT FURTHER BLOODSHED BY ALL MEANS" OR THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE PROLONGED.

"WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE WILL FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF DEVELOPING A POLICY THAT WILL FINALLY LEAD TO A NORMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS." THE SOVIETS, HE SAID, WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

"THE ISSUE IS THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE TROOPS," DUBCEK SAID. "WE HAVE AGREED THAT THE TROOPS WILL IMMEDIATELY BE SITUATED AT RESERVE AREAS," HE SAID.

"THE FINAL GOAL OF OUR ACTION IS THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE TROOPS," HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING STEPS TOWARDS THIS GOAL AND THAT SOME TROOPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MOVED.

(MORE)

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AUG 27/AS