

X/13 CS - SOVIET TANKS WITHDRAW FROM BORDER

MUNICH, AUG 28 (GND/MACDONALD) - SOVIET TANKS WHICH APPEARED ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK-WEST GERMAN BORDER YESTERDAY HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN SEVERAL KILOMETRES TO THE EAST, BAVARIAN OFFICIALS SAID TODAY.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BAVARIAN BORDER POLICE, GUSTAV HAERING, SAID THAT SOVIET SOLDIERS WERE STILL POSTED AT THE WAIDHAUS AND SCHIRNDING BORDER CROSSING-POINTS TODAY BUT THAT TRAVELLERS CONTINUED TO BE CONTROLLED BY CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER OFFICIALS.

AT BOTH BORDER POINTS, HE SAID, THE TANKS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN SOME 15 KILOMETRES INLAND.

SOVIET TANKS HAVE ALSO WITHDRAWN FROM TWO CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER VILLAGES IN THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE FRONTIER AND ARE NOW BETWEEN 15 AND 20 KILOMETRES INSIDE THE BORDER, HAERING ADDED.

UP TO 1030 HOURS THIS MORNING, BAVARIAN AUTHORITIES HAD NO FRESH REPORTS OF SOVIET TROOPS BEING SEEN AT OTHER PLACES ALONG THE 357-KILOMETRE FRONTIER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

CONTROLS WERE EASED TODAY AT THE SCHIRNDING CROSSING-POINT. UNLIKE YESTERDAY CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS WITH VALID VISAS WERE BEING PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR WEST GERMANY. WEST GERMANS WITH RELATIVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BUSINESSMEN WERE ALSO BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CSSR.

CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS ALSO CONTINUED TO CROSS INTO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AT FURTH-IM-WALD BUT ONLY WESTERNERS WITH URGENT PERSONAL REASONS AND BUSINESSMEN WERE ABLE TO ENTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THERE WAS NO CHANGE TODAY AT THE THIRD CROSSING-POINT, WAIDHAUS, WHERE ONLY FOREIGNERS WERE ABLE TO LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKS TO ENTER IT.

BCG/EH/HE

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