

X/13 E/W - U.S. ARMY RESTRICTS SOVIET MILITARY MISSION

BERLIN AUG. 29 (RFE SPECIAL/SCHLEICH)--THE SOVIET MILITARY MISSION ACCREDITED TO THE U.S. ARMY AUTHORITIES IN WEST GERMANY HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER RESTRICTIONS IN RESPONSE TO SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE U.S. MILITARY MISSION IN EAST GERMANY, AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN IN HEIDELBERG SAID TODAY.

THE OFFICIAL AT THE U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS SAID THAT TEMPORARY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE SOVIET MILITARY LIAISON MISSION WHICH IS LOCATED AT FRANKFURT/MAIN.

"THIS ACTION IS RELATED ONLY TO TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON THE U.S. MILITARY LIAISON MISSION IN THE SOVIET ZONE," THE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

(RFE'S CORRESPONDENT IN BERLIN SAID THAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA LAST WEEK BY ARMED FORCES OF FIVE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING EAST GERMANY, REPORTS HAD REACHED WEST BERLIN THAT THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES CLAMPED TIGHT TRAVEL BANS ON CERTAIN DISTRICTS ALONG THE EAST GERMAN-CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER.)

THE AMERICAN SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHEN, ON WHAT GROUNDS AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE SOVIETS INTRODUCED THEIR TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MILITARY MISSION, WHICH IS ACCREDITED TO THE SOVIET FORCES IN EAST GERMANY AND LOCATED IN POTSDAM, IMMEDIATELY SOUTHWEST OF BERLIN.

THE SPOKESMAN ALSO REFUSED TO DISCLOSE ANY DETAILS OF THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED IN TURN ON THE SOVIET MILITARY MISSION BY THE U.S. ARMY AUTHORITIES IN WEST GERMANY.

HE ONLY SAID THAT "SIMILAR MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN THE PAST."

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