

X/13 BRIT--BRITISH STUDENTS UNION COORDINATING HELP FOR CZECHOSLOVAKS
LONDON, AUGUST 29--(RFE SPECIAL/WELLS)--

IN A SHABBY GEORGIAN-STYLE HOUSE NEAR THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, SEVERAL SCORE YOUNG BRITONS ARE WORKING FRANTICALLY TO COORDINATE, ADMINISTER AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS OF EMERGENCY RELIEF, ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE FOR BETWEEN 2,000 AND 3,000 CZECHOSLOVAK STUDENTS CAUGHT IN BRITAIN WHEN THEIR COUNTRY WAS INVADED.

THE YOUNG BRITONS ARE OFFICIALS AND STAFF OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS, WHICH HAS BECOME EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS FOR A NUMBER OF YOUTH AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN BRITAIN RUNNING SPECIAL SERVICES TO TRY TO HELP THE YOUNG CZECHS AND SLOVAKS WHO HAVE TURNED TO THE UNION FOR HELP.

A NOTICE ON THE FRONT OF THE UNION BUILDING SAYS IT IS CLOSED FOR ALL BUSINESS EXCEPT HELP FOR CZECHOSLOVAK STUDENTS AND INSIDE THE NARROW CORRIDORS AND SMALL OFFICES ARE FILLED WITH TIRED AND WORRIED YOUNG CZECHOSLOVAKS, MOST OF THEM CLAD IN DIRTY JEANS AND SANDALS, WITH RUCKSACKS OVER THEIR SHOULDERS.

FORTUNATELY, THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS IS ABLE TO HELP MANY OF THEM, AT LEAST WITH THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF FOOD AND LODGING AND A TEMPORARY JOB UNTIL THEY DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT RPT NO TO RETURN HOME, AS MOST OF THEM STILL HOPE AND PLAN TO DO.

THE N.U.S IS COORDINATING ITS OWN PROGRAMS WITH SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOUSE, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH CLUBS AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH HOSTELS AND ACTS AS A SORT OF CLEARING HOUSE FOR THE OFFERS OF BED, BOARD AND EMPLOYMENT WHICH HAVE COME IN FROM ALL OVER BRITAIN.

"THE RESPONSE OF THE PUBLIC TO THE PLIGHT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STUDENTS HAS BEEN VERY GENEROUS," AN OFFICIAL OF THE N.U.S TOLD RFE TODAY.

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