

CN 50

CS - MORNING INTRO: CZECHOSLOVAK SCENE

PRAGUE, AUG 30 (UPI) -- CZECHOSLOVAKS WENT ABOUT THEIR DAILY DUTIES THURSDAY WITH NO SIGN OF THE SOVIET-COMMANDED OCCUPYING FORCES WITHDRAWING FROM THEIR TOWNS AND CITIES.

THE SOVIET TROOPS HELPED TO EASE THE TENSION IN THE CAPITAL BY GENERALLY STAYING OFF MAIN THOROUGHFARES AND LEAVING THEIR SQUADRONS OF TANKS AND OTHER COMBAT VEHICLES PARKED IN SIDE STREETS.

OCCASIONALLY AN ARMORED CAR, ITS CREW WEARING STEEL HELMETS AND HOLDING MACHINE GUNS, COULD BE SEEN MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC.

BUT THEY OBEYED TRAFFIC LIGHTS AND STOPPED FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS STILL OCCUPIED THE CZECHOSLOVAK RADIO STATION AND OTHER KEY BUILDINGS. HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS PARKED IN CONCENTRATED GROUPS IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY.

THE RUSSIAN FORCES RINGED PRAGUE AND CONTROLLED ALL TRAFFIC ENTERING AND LEAVING.

THEY HAVE SET UP ENCAMPMENTS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CAPITALS. TANKS WERE DUG IN ON FIELDS, ONLY THEIR TURRETS SHOWING TO GUARD RAIL LINES AND ROADS.

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS SOMETIMES TALKED WITH CZECHOSLOVAK ONLOOKERS. OTHERWISE THEY JUST SAT AROUND LOOKING BORED. SOME WORE REGULAR UNIFORMS AND PEAKED CAPS INSTEAD OF COMBAT GARB.

CROWDS THROGGED THE STREETS AND THE STORES WERE FULL OF SHOPPERS. A FEW NEW POSTERS PROTESTING THE OCCUPATION WERE PASTED UP ON SHOP WINDOWS, BUT NOT NEARLY AS MANY AS IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER THE INVASION.

MD/LA 0420/68 AUG 30

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