

CN 66

C/S - PRAGUE QUIET

PRAGUE, AUG 30, REUTER - SOVIET-OCCUPIED PRAGUE LAST NIGHT SPENT ITS FIRST NIGHT FREE OF A CURFEW SINCE WARSAW PACT FORCES MARCHED IN NINE DAYS AGO.

RUSSIAN TROOPS IN LIGHT TRUCKS PATROLLED THE EMPTY STREETS. ONE TROOP CARRIER WITH ABOUT 20 ARMED SOLDIERS DROVE UP TO THE SAINT WENCESLAUS MONUMENT IN THE CENTRE OF THE CITY.

THERE A DOZEN STUDENTS HAVE MAINTAINED A DAY AND NIGHT VIGIL OF PROTEST SINCE THE RUSSIANS CAME. THE STUDENTS REMAINED AT THE STATUE AFTER THE RUSSIAN TROOP CARRIER DROVE ON.

THEY HAVE TURNED THE EQUESTRIAN MONUMENT INTO A MEMORIAL FOR THOSE KILLED DURING THE INVASION. ROWS OF CANDLES ON THE STEPS BURN IN MEMORY OF THE DEAD.

DESPITE THE LIFTING OF THE CURFEW, THE USUAL CROWD CENTRES WERE EMPTY BY MIDNIGHT.

BMCG/LA 0718/68 AUG 30

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