

ATTRIBUTION REQUIRED

C/S -- SVOBODA VERSUS THE KREMLIN

(NOTE TO EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING MAY NOT RPT NOT BE USED BY THE CZECHOSLOVAK BD. THE OTHER FOUR BDS MAY USE IT.)

MUNICH, AUG 30 (CNR) WESTERN NEWS MEDIA HAVE REPORTED DETAILS OF WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS THE INSIDE STORY OF PRESIDENT SVOBODA'S TENSE DAYS OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP IN THE WAKE OF OCCUPATION.

NO RPT NO OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN RELEASED IN MOSCOW, BUT WESTERN AGENCY REPORTS ATTRIBUTED TO RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE APPEARED THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN PRESS.

THESE REPORTS, FROM REUTERS AND UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS PRESENT A PICTURE OF THE 73-YEAR-OLD LEADER FIRMLY REJECTING SOVIET ULTIMATA IN BOTH PRAGUE AND MOSCOW.

THE UPI REPORT FROM LONDON QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED DIPLOMATS AS SAYING THAT A GROUP OF UNIFORMED RUSSIANS FORCED AWAY INTO THE HRADCANÝ CASTLE IN PRAGUE EARLY ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 21 AND PRESENTED SVOBODA WITH A LIST OF CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERS ACCEPTABLE AS THE BASIS FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT.

SVOBODA REFUSED TO SIGN HIS AGREEMENT TO THE LIST, THOUGH THE RUSSIANS TOLD HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CRUSH CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SET UP A MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN PRAGUE SAID THAT SVOBODA AGAIN FACED THESE THREATS ON HIS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW.

ACCORDING TO UPI'S SOURCES SVOBODA'S RECEPTION IN MOSCOW WAS FAR LESS CORDIAL THAN THE OFFICIAL REPORTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS SUGGESTED.

UPI AND CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCASTS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAVE SAID THAT PHOTOS LATER DISTRIBUTED, SHOWING SVOBODA EMBRACED BY RUSSIAN LEADERS WERE TAKEN EARLIER IN THE MONTH AT BRATISLAVA.

(MORE) BG/HI

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