

CN 30

CS -- U.S. TV TEAM FORCED TO LEAVE CS

VIENNA, AUG 31, (REUTER/UPI) -- TWO BRITONS AND A CANADIAN FORMING AN AMERICAN TELEVISION REPORTING TEAM WERE FORCED TO LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHILE DRIVING NEAR THE COUNTRY'S BORDER WITH WEST GERMANY, THE TEAM'S LEADER SAID HERE TODAY.

MORLEY SAFER, THE CANADIAN LEADER OF THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM (CBS) TEAM, SAID THEY WERE STOPPED BY CZECHOSLOVAK BORDER OFFICIALS EIGHT KMS FROM THE FRONTIER ON THURSDAY AND TOLD THEY HAD TO LEAVE.

"WE HAD BEEN NOSING AROUND NEAR THE BORDER WHEN WE RAN INTO A CHECK-POINT", HE SAID.

"THE GUARDS ASKED FOR OUR PASSPORTS AND SAW OUR TOURIST VISAS HAD RUN OUT. THEY SAID THE RUSSIANS WERE WATCHING THEM AND UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAD TO GO -- THEY COULD NOT RENEW OUR VISAS".

"THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN NICER IT WAS JUST THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THE RUSSIANS THERE."

THE TEAM HAD SPENT A WEEK IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TAKING FILM.

MR SAFER, 36, IS THE CBS LONDON BUREAU CHIEF. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO LONDON CAMERAMEN, JOHN TIFFIN, AND PETER MORELEY.

THE TWO BRITONS HAD LEFT VIENNA FOR LONDON YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SAFER SAID.

X MBW/HI

1015/68/CR 8