

CN 73

CS - RUDE PRAVO COUNTS INVASION TOLL

PRAGUE, SEP 1, REUTER - CZECHOSLOVAKIAS MAIN COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN RUDE PRAVO REPORTED TODAY THAT 25 PEOPLE HAD BEEN KILLED AND 431 WOUNDED IN PRAGUE SINCE THE WARSAW PACT OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 11 DAYS AGO.

FOUR HOUSES WERE DESTROYED BY FIRE AND MANY HOUSES HAD BEEN BADLY BURNED.

THE WORST DAMAGE WAS IN THE AREA OF THE RADIO STATION, ONE OF THE FIRST OBJECTIVES OF THE SPEARHEAD STRIKING FORCE : FLOWN INTO PRAGUE AIRPORT TO SEIZE THE CAPITAL.

PRAGUES MAYOR LUDVIK CERNY SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RUDE PRAVO THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD DEMANDED AS THE PRICE OF THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CITY THAT ALL ANTI-SOVIET POSTERS BE PULLED DOWN.

THE MAYOR THANKED THE YOUTH OF THE CITY FOR BEGINNING THE WORK OF REMOVING THESE SLOGANS.

HE SAID PUBLIC UTILITIES WERE LARGELY BACK TO NORMAL. THE MAJOR PROBLEM BEING TRANSPORT AND THE DIFFICULTY OF MOVING AROUND THE CITY AT NIGHT.

RUDE PRAVO ALSO PUBLISHED A MANIFESTO SIGNED BY MORE THAN 20 LEADING INTELLECTUALS DENYING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MASS EXODUS OF INTELLECTUALS FEARING ARREST UNDER THE NEW CONDITIONS HERE.

THE MANIFESTO, SIGNED BY "PROGRESSIVE FIGURES" IN THE WORLD OF THE ARTS AND JOURNALISM IN THE NAME OF THEIR COMRADES, SAID THAT CULTURE AND ART HAD AN EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE IN TODAYS CONDITIONS.

"THEREFORE THE VOICE OF THE ARTISTS, JOURNALISTS, AND SCIENTISTS CANNOT BE STILLED, FOR THEIR VOICE IS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE".

(MORE)

JON/MBW/A

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