

CN 152

C/S -2ND ADD 1945 INTRO CZECHOSLOVAKIA (CN 142) XXX PARTICIPATED

(REUTER) MEANWHILE, PRAGUE AND MOST OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY ARE SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL.

EVEN THE ARTISTS ARE BACK AT THEIR OLD JOBS.

WHEN THE WARSAW PACT TROOPS MOVED IN, THE ARTISTS CHURNED OUT ANTI-SOVIET SLOGANS AND POSTERS. NOW, THEY HAVE RETURNED TO MORE CONVENTIONAL SUBJECTS -- LIKE THE OLD GOTHIC TOWN HALL OR PRAGUES FASCINATING JEWISH QUARTER.

THE ANTI-RUSSIAN SLOGANS HAVE BEEN WASHED OR STRIPPED FROM SHIP FRONTS AND WALLS. AND EVEN SOME OF THE POSTERS PRAISING PRESIDENT LUDVIK SVOBODA AND MR. DUBCEK ARE COMING DOWN.

STREET SIGNS, RIPPED DOWN TO CONFUSE THE RUSSIANS IN THE EARLY DAYS OF OCCUPATION, ARE GOING UP AGAIN IN PRAGUE AND BRATISLAVA -- AND FOREIGNERS CAN FIND THEIR WAY ABOUT AGAIN.

THE RUSSIAN TROOPS WHO, WITH OTHER WARSAW PACT FORCES, MOVED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA ON AUGUST 21, HAVE BEEN MOVING OUT OF THE CITY CENTRE OF PRAGUE AND BOTHER NOBODY.

MANY HAVE GONE TO A WOODED PARK ONLY 300 METRES FROM THE CENTRAL WENCESLAS SQUARE. IN THE PARK TODAY WAS THE BIGGEST SOVIET STRIKING FORCE IN CENTRAL PRAGUE.

A RUSSIAN SOLDIER LOUNGED AGAINST THE MUDDY TRACKS OF HIS TANK AND STRUMMED A GUITAR, HIS EYES FOLLOWING THE GIRLS SWINGING BY.

OTHER SOLDIERS LAY ON THE GRASS, SOAKING IN THE WARM SUN.

EVERYTHING SPOKE OF BOREDOM.

NEAR THE BORED SOLDIERS SAT GROUPS OF OFFICERS RANGING IN RANK FROM LIEUTENANT-COLONEL TO LIEUTENANT.

(MORE) BG/HI

2035/68 *4B*

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